FRIDAY
December 30, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Significant Strides in the Cooperative Sector, Citizens' Safety and Welfare of Police

Inauguration, dedication to the nation and foundation stone laying of various projects by **Shri Amit Shah**, Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Govt. of India

December 30, 2022 - Friday

MANMUL Mega Dairy Inauguration
Venue: Gejjalagere, Mandya | 11:15 am

- The Mandya District Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited has established a Mega Dairy unit on its premises in Gejjalagere, Maddur Taluk.
- This unit can produce 10 LLPD milk, milk powder and other dairy products.
- Total cost of the project: **Rs.260.90 crore**

December 31, 2022 - Saturday

Visit to the Karnataka State Souharda Federal Cooperative Ltd.
Place: Malleshwaram, Bengaluru | 1.00 pm

The activities of the KSSFCL include providing training, organizing education and awareness programs, promoting cooperative principles, acting as a data bank of Cooperatives, etc.

- Total no. of Souharda Cooperative Societies: 5,534
- Share capital: Rs.1,077 crore
- Reserved Fund: Rs.2,295 crore
- Deposits: Rs.27,780 crore
- Loans: Rs.20,923 crore
- Working capital: Rs.31,367 crore
- Number of members: 62 lakh

December 31, 2022 - Saturday

Inauguration of various projects of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Regional Head Office (Online)

- 120 Jawan barracks
- 42 residential buildings
- Joint Administrative building
- Officers and Subordinate Officers mess

Foundation stone laying of the Bureau of Police Research & Development's Central Detective Training School Building in 35 acres at Avathi Village, Devanahalli
Place: Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural | 11:00 am

- The Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI), Bengaluru, will be developed as a Centre of Excellence for Urban Policing (Smart City Policing) and Block Chain Technology.
- Training courses will be offered to police officers from all States/UTs/CPOs and CAPFs.
- The institute will raise the standard of investigation amongst the police officers involved in crime investigations.
- The state government has allotted 35 acres of land at Avathi Village, in Devanhalli Taluk, for this purpose.

Mega Cooperative Convention
December 30, 2022, Friday | 5.00 pm
Place: Palace Grounds, Bengaluru

The program has been organized to felicitate the Cooperative Societies and the stakeholders' achievements.

Achievements of the state government in agriculture and cooperative sector

- The target of disbursing agricultural loans in 2022-23: Rs. 24,000 crore
- Beneficiaries: 33 lakh farmers
- Achievement to date: Rs.13,480.03 crore worth of loans distributed to 18.11 lakh farmers (out of which three lakh farmers are new beneficiaries)

- Total interest subsidies allocated: Rs.1,078.02 crore
- Amount released to date: Rs. 798.59 crore

- No. of Stree Shakti/Self-Help Groups formed in the current year: 2.5 lakhs
- Total loan amount allocated: Rs.839.18 crore (at 0% interest rate)
- Total no. of beneficiary groups: 20,466

- Total no. of farmers benefitted under loan waiver scheme: 17.06 lakh
- Total amount waived off: Rs. 7,987 crore
- The total amount released by the incumbent government: Rs. 5,387 crore

- 'FRUITS' application introduced in Cooperative Societies to simplify loan disbursement system for farmers

- Total cost of computerization of all PACS in the State, under Central Scheme: Rs.235.56 crore

- New District Cooperative Milk Unions set up in Haveri and Chikkaballapur Districts

- 913 PACS benefitted from NABARD under the Agri Infra Fund Scheme and transformed into Multi-Service Centers (MSCs)
- Total grants: Rs.320.91 crore
- Amount released as the first instalment: Rs.158.02 crore to 706 Cooperative Societies

- Total no. of Urban Cooperative banks which are pioneers in urban banking: 256
- Total no. of members: 25,43,121
- Share capital: Rs. 1,633 crore
- Working capital: Rs.52,994 crore
- Total deposit amount: Rs.45,580 crore

- Total number of Non-agricultural Cooperative Societies: 4,284
- Total no. of members: 41,46,469
- Total share capital: Rs.21,557 crore
- Total deposit amount: Rs.1,34,338 crore
- Total no. of branches: 1,441

- Reintroduction of the Yeshasvini scheme
- No. of registrations aimed in 2022-23: 30 lakh farmers
- Achievement to date: 20 lakhs

- State Govt. is providing an incentive of Rs.5/- per litre milk to every farmer
- Total amount spent during 2021-22: Rs.1,250 crore
- Budget provision made in 2022-23: Rs.1,250 crore

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

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INTERVIEW: KESAVAN VELUTHAT

'RSS, BJP politics based on hatred'

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TRIAL RUN

Fighter jets test landing facility in A.P.

SOUTH » PAGE 5

CENSOR BOARD INTERVENES

***Pathaan* makers told to implement changes**

NEWS » PAGE 11

MINORITY MATTERS

Changing facets of Muslim representation

Will the south Indian model offer answers?

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

UNASSAILABLE LEAD

Australia beats SA by an innings, leads 2-0

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Metro line to KIA to be ready by December 2023

BELAGAVI
The metro line to Kempegowda International Airport will be thrown open by December 2023, assured Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.
» Page 3

Tight security for New Year's Eve celebrations

BENGALURU
The police have made elaborate security arrangements for the New Year's Eve, with over 8,500 personnel to be deployed to ensure no untoward incident happens. » Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Remote EVM ready to help migrants vote outside States: EC

The machines can handle multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth; panel to demonstrate prototype's functioning on Jan. 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday announced the development of a prototype of a multi-constituency remote electronic voting machine (RVM) to enable remote voting by migrant voters.

The machines can handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth.

The EC invited all recognised political parties – eight national and 57 State parties – to a demonstration of the prototype on January 16. The panel has already shared a concept note with them on the legal, operational, administrative and technological challenges. The commission urged the parties to submit their views by January 31.

Opposing the proposal, the Congress said the move could seriously "undermine trust in the electoral system".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

What is an RVM?

The machine allows migrant voters living outside their home constituencies to vote from their current residence

- The remote voter must **register online/offline within a pre-notified time before the elections** with their home constituency Returning Officer
- After **successful verification** at their home constituency, the **voter will be approved** for the remote voting facility
- Booths will be set up near their current homes

EVMs being sealed after an election

- In an RVM, a single ballot unit **can cater to many constituencies at a single polling station by using dynamic ballot display** instead of the usual printed paper ballot sheet

State carves out separate categories for Veerashaivas, Vokkaligas in OBC quota

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

With pressure mounting for higher reservation in education and employment from the politically influential Panchamasali (Veerashaiva-Lingayat subsect) and Vokkaligas, the State government on Thursday decided to create separate OBC reservation categories. The Cabinet cleared the formation of 2C and 2D categories for Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats (all subsects) in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list.

The government, however, deferred announcement on the quantum of reservation to the newly established categories till the final report of the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission is submitted, while stating that it would be increased "at least by 2 to 3%."

The Cabinet, which met in Belagavi on Thursday, decided to create 2C and 2D to accommodate the castes that figured in 3A (Vokkaliga) and 3B (Veerashaiva-Lingayat) till now. The decision was based on the interim report on the demand of several communities for increase in reservation, submitted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission.

Members of the Panchamasali Lingayat community during their agitation for reservation, at Hirebagewadi in Belagavi district on December 22. PTI

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy, briefing the media, said the final report of the commission was expected in two to three months. Panchamasali Lingayats had set December 29 as the deadline to enhance reservation.

On EWS quota

"The Central government has already announced 10% reservation for EWS, increasing the total reservation to 60%. In Karnataka, we are yet to determine the number of castes and their population that deserve EWS quota. We will fix the percentage of EWS quota, considering their population. Then, the remaining percentage points will be allocated to the newly created categories. If there is a requirement, we can go beyond 60% reservation, as there are examples in other States. As per this model, both the communities will get the reservation increased by at least 2% or 3%," he contended.

The Minister made it clear that the government would not alter the reservation allotted to categories — 2A (15%) and 2B (4%). The reservation is only for education and employment purposes.

There would be no political representation, he added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

RT-PCR negative report must for air travellers from five Asian countries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Wary of a rise in number of COVID-19 cases, the government has made negative RT-PCR reports a mandatory requirement for air travellers arriving from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

In its latest guidelines for international travellers, the Health and Family Welfare Ministry has said a pre-departure test conducted 72 hours before the journey will be mandatory from January 1 for passengers from these five countries.

Travellers arriving in India will also have to fill a self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal, besides uploading a copy of their RT-PCR test report.

Exercising caution: Travellers arriving in India will have to fill a self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal. SANDEEP SAXENA

IATA disappointed

The International Air Transport Association, which represents more than 300 airlines across the world, opposed the decision. "India's decision to reintroduce COVID-19 testing is disappointing and a step backward," said Philip Goh, IATA's regional vice-president for Asia-Pacific.

He added that governments needed to respond based on science and facts, and experience from the past three years showed that travel restrictions and testing requirements were ineffective. "Testing requirements have a negative impact on travel as people tend to avoid being tested," he added.

The impact of the move on travel demand will be known in the days to come.

"The announcement is unlikely to have an immediate impact as bookings are done much in advance. However, going forward we might see some drop," said Rajiv Mehra, Indian Association of Tour Operators.

CWC accepts DPRs of much-awaited Kalasa-Banduri drinking water scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre on Thursday accepted the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for implementation of the decades-old Kalasa-Banduri drinking water project in the inter-State Mahadayi river basin. This came months ahead of Karnataka Assembly elections in 2023 and hours before Union Home Minister Amit Shah's arrival in the State to attend a slew of programmes and poll-related meetings. While the Central Water Commission (CWC) has approved the DPRs, the implementation is now subject to other mandatory approvals, including forest clearances and the final judgement of the Supreme Court. The demand for this project had led to massive protests by farmers and was one of the poll promises of the BJP in 2018.

This approval of hydrology and inter-State aspects, as per the guidelines of CWC, is subject to the decision of the Supreme Court on special leave petitions of riparian States – Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa. Karnataka had approached the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Union Government to publish a gazetted notification of the award following which the Centre published it in 2020.

The Mahadayi River Water Disputes Tribunal has already permitted diversion of 2.18 tmcft. of Mahadayi waters at Banduri dam and 1.72 tmcft of water at the proposed Kalasa dam in its final award in 2018, and the matter is pending before the apex court.

"Based on the technical appraisal by CWC, DPRs of Kala Nala diversion scheme and Banduri Nala diversion scheme – both lift schemes – are found to be acceptable from hydrology and inter-State aspects," according to a memorandum of the CWC Project Appraisal (South) Directorate.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

India's CAD widens in Q2 to nine-year high of 4.4%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account balance recorded a deficit of $36.4 billion – or a nine-year high of 4.4% of GDP – in the second quarter ended September, rising from $18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in the previous quarter, according to Reserve Bank data released on Thursday.

The RBI said a spike in merchandise trade deficit to $83.5 billion in Q2, from $63 billion in April-June, contributed to a wider CAD – which is the highest as a proportion of GDP since June 2013.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 14

Pharma firm faces inquiry over 'killer' cough syrup

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Drug Control and the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) are investigating Marion Biotech after Uzbekistan linked the deaths of 18 children to a "contaminated" cough syrup made by the Noida-based firm, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday.

Samples of the syrup have been sent to the Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory in Chandigarh for further testing, Mr. Mandaviya said.

Media reports quoted a legal representative for Marion Biotech as saying that the company had ceased production of the cough syrup pending an investigation.

Under scrutiny: Samples of the syrup have been sent for further testing.

The controversy took on political overtones with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeting that the Narendra Modi government should "stop boasting" about India being a pharmacy to the world and take strict action, while the ruling party accused the Congress of deriding India in its "hate" for the Prime Minister.

'Premature link'

The Indian government is in touch with Uzbekistan authorities, but it will be premature to link the present case with a recent incident in the Gambia where also children's deaths were blamed on Indian-made cough syrups, said a spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

FAC reduced for Bescom consumers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The electricity bills of consumers of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) will see a reduction of 37 paise and 39 paise respectively as the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has revised Fuel Cost Adjustment Charges (FAC) for the upcoming quarter. The new rates will be applicable to the bills which are generated between January 1 and March 31, 2023.

In the previous revision, the KERC had allowed Bescom to recover 43 paise and Mescom 24 paise in FAC during the ongoing quarter, October to December. "For instance, if a consumer who used 100 units was getting an additional ₹43 as FAC on their bill, from the next quarter they will only see ₹6 in their bill," said an official.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
TIRUPATI
Guidelines to devotees visiting for
VAIKUNTA DWARA DARSHAN at Srivari Temple, Tirumala.
Devotees are requested to follow the TTD's guidelines to have a comfortable Vaikunta Dwara Darshan.
The TTD Trust Board decided in 2020 to keep the Vaikunta Dwaram open for ten days to provide entry to as many devotees as possible. With this, an estimated 8 lakh devotees can have Vaikunta Dwara Darshan.
By taking time slot tokens, devotees opting for Sarvadarshan need not wait in queue lines for long hours. The devotees are hence advised to take the tokens in Tirupati (downhill) before coming to the temple.
Sarvadarshan tokens are available in Tirupati at (1) Bhudevi Complex in Alipiri (2) Vishnu Nivasam opposite Railway Station, (3) II and III Choultry behind Railway Station (4) Srinivasam Complex opposite RTC Central Bus Station (5) Indira Maidanam (6) ZP High School at Jeevakona (7) Rama Naidu Municipal High School at Bairagipatteda (8) ZP High School at M.R. Palle (9) Ramachandra Pushkarini.
4.50 lakh tokens will be issued at the above counters from Jan 1 (starting at 2pm) for the days starting from Jan 2 to 11 (ten days) till the entire quota of tokens are completed. Devotees will be provided tiffin, Anna Prasadam, drinking water, milk and tea in the queue lines. Only those devotees having the tokens will be allowed to enter 'Q' lines in Tirumala.
Devotees are requested to plan their travel only after getting information on ticket availability through SVBC, TTD's website and other media.
As limited accommodation is available at Tirumala, devotees are advised to plan their travel only on the date and time mentioned in the token. This advice is made in the interest of the devotees only.
Devotees are advised to compulsorily wear mask in the likelihood of a rise in Covid cases.
As the intention is to provide Vaikunta Dwara Darshan for as many devotees as possible, recommendation letters will not be accepted during these ten days.
Roc.No.PR4/13949/Adv.No.325/PRO/2022, Dated:29-12-2022
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

CAD as a share of GDP widens in the second quarter of 2022-23

4.4 India's current account deficit (CAD) as a percentage of GDP in the second quarter that ended September, from 2.2% of GDP during Q1 of 2022-23, due to higher trade gap, the RBI informed. The current account balance recorded a deficit of $36.4 billion in Q2 23, up from $18.2 billion in Q1 23 and a deficit of $9.7 billion from year-ago period, RBI said. PTI

Road accident deaths in India due to not wearing seat belts

16,397 The number of people killed in road accidents in 2021 due to not wearing seat belts, of which 8,438 were drivers and the remaining 7,959 were passengers, according to 'Road accidents in India, 2021', a report published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). PTI

Rise in India's mineral output in October this year: Mines Ministry

2.5 In percentage, the increase in India's mineral production in October over the same month a year ago, the Ministry of Mines said. As per the Indian Bureau of Mines, the cumulative growth of 4% was seen during April-October 2022-23, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Minerals that recorded year-on-year growth include iron ore and coal. PTI

Civilians forced to flee homes in Sudan due to armed raids, says UN

30,000 The number of civilians forced to flee their homes in South Sudan, due to armed raids in the Jonglei state plagued by ethnic clashes, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) informed. Some 5,000 people have sought shelter in Pibor town, the OCHA said. AP

Women, children among 1,200 Afghans detained in Pakistan

1,200 The number of Afghan nationals detained by Pakistani police in multiple raids, after they entered Karachi without valid travel documents, officials informed. At least 139 Afghan women and 165 children are among those being held at a high-security jail in Karachi. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Karnataka-Maharashtra border row

What is the dispute between the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra? What has been the politics around the border dispute? What is the Mahajan Commission? How does the dispute resonate in the cultural arena?

EXPLAINER

Nalme Nachiyar

The story so far:

The border town of Belagavi has been a part of Karnataka since boundaries were demarcated along linguistic lines under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. But the inter-State border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra erupts every now and then. The decades-old dispute flared up again in 2022 when Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the Karnataka government was considering laying claim to Jath taluk in Maharashtra, evoking a strong response. The Karnataka Legislative Assembly, on December 22, unanimously passed a resolution to protect its interests and called the dispute a "closed chapter". On December 27, the Maharashtra government retaliated by passing a unanimous resolution in its Assembly to legally pursue the inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking villages from Belagavi, Karwar, Nipani, Bidar, Bhalki and others in Karnataka into the State.

Activists burn effigy during a protest against the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue, in Bengaluru, PTI

What are the claims of the two States?

The raging boundary dispute between the two States dates back to the reorganisation of States along linguistic lines. In 1957, unhappy with the demarcation of boundaries, Maharashtra demanded realignment of its border with Karnataka. It invoked Section 21 (2)(b) of the Act, submitting a memorandum to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs stating its objection to Marathi-speaking areas being included in Karnataka. It filed a petition in the Supreme Court staking a claim over Belagavi.

Karnataka has argued that the inclusion of Belagavi as part of its territory is beyond dispute. It has cited the demarcation done on linguistic lines as per the Act and the 1967 Mahajan Commission Report to substantiate its position. Karnataka has argued for the inclusion of areas in Kolhapur, Sholapur and Sangli districts (falling under Maharashtra) in its territory. From 2006, Karnataka started holding the winter session of the Legislature in Belagavi, building the massive Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in the district headquarters to reassert its claim.

What has been the politics around the dispute?

In the immediate decades of the formation of States, no national party was willing to take the risk and address the dispute, especially the Congress which has a social base in both States. This helped Maharashtra Ekikarana Samiti (MES) sustain its fight with a single agenda – Belagavi's inclusion into Maharashtra.

The MES-supported candidates, who have been winning one or more seats in the district since the 1957 Karnataka Assembly elections, were defeated in the 2018 Assembly elections. As another election draws close in 2023, the MES is keen to revive its political fortunes.

The dispute strongly resonates in the cultural arena too. For instance, two Sahitya Sammelanas – the 73rd Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelana (ABMSS) and the 70th Akil Bharatiya Kannada Sahitya Sammelana – were held in Belagavi in 2000 and 2003, respectively. Both events prepared the ground for the re-opening of an otherwise muted issue.

What were the terms of the Mahajan Commission?

In 1966, at Maharashtra's insistence, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi established a one-man commission led by Mehr Chand Mahajan, which recommended that 264 villages be transferred to Maharashtra and that Belagavi (Belgaum) and 247 villages remain with Karnataka.

Maharashtra rejected the report, while Karnataka welcomed it. Karnataka argued that either the Mahajan Commission Report should be accepted fully, or the status quo maintained.

What is the recent controversy around Jath taluk?

A war of words broke out between BJP leaders in Karnataka and Maharashtra over the border row last month after CM Basavaraj Bommai said the BJP-led government was "seriously considering" laying a claim on Jath taluk and held meetings with senior advocates to resolve the boundary issue.

In 2021, all 40 gram panchayats of the drought-prone Jath taluk passed a resolution to join Karnataka, stating that the Maharashtra government was unable to provide water to its people and they were being treated unfairly.

This fuelled tension between the two states, with Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis saying they would not cede even an inch of land to Karnataka. Mr. Bommai then upped the ante by stating that Solapur and Akkalkot ought to be part of Karnataka as well.

In the same week, violence broke out at Dhound village in Maharashtra when some pro-Marathi activists vandalised a KSRTC bus. In retaliation, a few pro-Kannada activists blackened the boards of an MSRTC bus in Kalaburagi district.

THE GIST

- The raging boundary dispute between the two States dates back to the reorganisation of States along linguistic lines. In 1957, unhappy with the demarcation of boundaries, Maharashtra demanded realignment of its border with Karnataka.
- Karnataka has argued for the inclusion of areas in Kolhapur, Sholapur and Sangli districts (falling under Maharashtra) in its territory.
- A war of words broke out between BJP leaders in Karnataka and Maharashtra over the border row last month after CM Basavaraj Bommai said the BJP-led government was "seriously considering" laying a claim on Jath taluk.

What is the Videocon-Chanda Kochhar case all about?

What are the charges levied against Chanda Kochhar and her husband, Deepak Kochhar? When did the allegations first come to light? What does Fitch's report say?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On December 23, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested private lender ICICI Bank's former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) Chanda Kochhar along with her husband, Deepak Kochhar. This was in a case pertaining to fraudulent disbursal of loans amounting to ₹1,875 crore between 2009-11 to the Videocon group of companies, during her tenure at the helm of the private lender. The CBI also arrested Videocon promoter Venugopal Dhoot.

What is the case about?

Ms. Kochhar is accused of conspiring with her husband to abuse her powers at the helm of the private lender for extending loans to the Videocon Group. Between June 2009 and October 2011, ICICI Bank had sanctioned six high value loans to varied companies owned by Videocon. The financial transactions resulted in wrongful loss to the private lender. Further, they were in violation of the credit (extending) policy and were later deemed to be non-performing assets (NPAs) for the lender.

On August 26, 2009, the private lender sanctioned Rupee Term Loan (RTL) of ₹300 crore (of which ₹283.45 crore was eventually disbursed) to Videocon. The loan was disbursed on September 7. It was on the very next day that Mr. Dhoot transferred ₹64 crore to NuPower Renewables Ltd (NRL) managed by Mr. Kochhar.

The ₹64 crore in question, thus, is being alleged to be part of a reciprocal arrangement between Mr. Kochhar and Mr. Dhoot.

What have been the key developments?

The allegations first came to light in 2016. Back then, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) did not find anything concrete in the allegation. However, in June 2017, the accounts belonging to Videocon Industries Ltd (VIL) were deemed to be non-performing assets.

The allegations re-emerged in March 2018 following a whistleblower complaint alleging that assets were not being correctly classified. The private lender's board initially denied any wrongdoing on part of Ms. Kochhar to shift its stance and initiate an independent probe under retired Justice B.N. Srikrishna. Ms. Kochhar was thereby sent on leave pending the outcome of the investigation. She later stepped down from her position in October 2018. It was in November 2020 that the ED filed a chargesheet against the former MD and CEO. The CBI filed its FIR against Ms. Kochhar in May 2022.

What is their defence?

Arguing for his bail plea in the Bombay High Court, Mr. Kochhar's defence had stated that Videocon has been a client of the private lender since 1985. It had extended several loans and credit facilities to the group as part of their long-standing relationship. It also stated that Videocon's investment in NRL was in the nature of equity where the return "would be gathered by capital appreciation on the basis of growth of the company and valuation of its assets".

What were its broader implications?

Ratings agency Fitch stated in April 2018 that the development "raises questions over the bank's governance and creates reputational risk". In a separate development back then, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) had sought permission from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to probe ICICI Bank about the ₹3,250 crore line of credit extended to the Videocon Group.

Fitch's note had added the presence of the bank's CEO on the credit committee had "created doubts over the strength of its corporate governance practices".

THE GIST

- Chanda Kochhar is accused of conspiring with her husband, Deepak Kochhar, to abuse her powers at the helm of the private lender for extending loans to the Videocon Group.
- On August 26, 2009, the private lender sanctioned Rupee Term Loan (RTL) of ₹300 crore (of which ₹283.45 crore was eventually disbursed) to Videocon.
- Arguing for his bail plea in the Bombay High Court, Mr. Kochhar's defence had stated that Videocon has been a client of the private lender since 1985.

(Government of Karnataka)

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN

Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFI CATION NO:19/2022-23 DATED:29-12-2022

On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has Invited the Tender for the worksof CRP,ARK & BLR Taluk Approved under2022-23JJM Mention Below, **Two Cover System works** Channarayapatna Taluk 01Work(General) Belur Taluk 14 WorkS(General) Arkalgudu Taluk 01Work(General) Above work tenders are invited in Two cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From **30-12-2022** After 11.00A.M. The bidder should submitted the tender with in the dated: **05-01-2023** before 4-00 P.M. On Dated:**30-12-2022** The Pre-bid Meeting will be conducted in this office, Interested Contractor may participated. Venue : Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Zilla Panchyath Building, N.R,Circle Hassan. The Technical bid will open on dated:**06-01-2023** after 5:00 P.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated:09 **-01-2023** after 11.00A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights of to cancel all tender or any one tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/908/2022–23

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001, Karnataka, INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/WMC/SWM(BLY)/8/2022-23/6507 **Date: 28.12.2022**

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town Municipal Council, Kurugodu have proposed to set up Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (MSWMF) of capacity 14.5 TPD at Sy. No. 190/3 in area of 6 acres at Kurugodu Village, Kurugodu Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka.

As Per Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) process. As per the Terms of Reference letter No. SEIAA 58 IND 2021, dated: 21.02.2022 of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority - Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated: 12.11.2022, the EPH is scheduled on **31.01.2023.**

The details of the proposed new project are as follows:

1. Name of the local body & Address : The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Kurugodu, Ballari District
2. Proposed location of the project : Sy. No. 190/3 of Kurugodu Village, Kurugodu Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka.
3. Detail of Project Proposed : Proposed setting up Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (MSWMF) of capacity 14.5 TPD at Sy. No. 190/3 in area of 6 acres at Kurugodu Village, Kurugodu Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka
4. Date, time and venue of Public Hearing: 31.01.2023 (Tuesday) at 11.00 A.M at Sy. No. 190/3 of Kurugodu Village, Kurugodu Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Ballari District, Ballari. (c) District Industries Centre, Ballari District, Ballari. (d) Office of the Regional Officer, Regional Office- Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Sy. No. 597P, Ward No. 15, 4th Main Road, Dr. Vishnuvardhana Park, Kuvempunagara, Ballari -583104. (e) Kurugodu Gram Panchayath Office, Kurugodu Village, Kurugodu Taluk, Ballari District, (f) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (g) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification through oral/written/E-Mail to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

"AVOID USE OF PLASTICS - BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY"

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EEE(O)AEE(C)//22-23/6596-99 Date: 28.12.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites tender for providing House Keeping Services for KPTCL 400 KV Ballari Pooling Station, Kudithini, KPTCL Guest House at Ballari and KPTCL Guest House at Raichur coming under the Jurisdiction of Tr(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad.

The details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in on hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL"or** directly logging on to **website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.12.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Trans. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad, Ph: 08539-270094.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT1533 Date: 28.12.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS

BDA invites short-term tender for **"Providing 9mtr RCC Poles, streetlight and Transformer repair (3 Nos. of 250KVA) for arranging power supply to the house No-1221 to 1236/A, 1251 to 1266 and 1280 to 1289 in Anjanapura 10th Block Further Extension, BDA Bengaluru.**

Calender of Events:- (1) Period of downloading the tender document from: **29.12.2022. (2)** Last date and time for submission of tender document: **12.01.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and time for opening of Technical & Financial bid: **16.01.2023, 17.00 Hrs.**

For more details: Please refer e-Procurement portal from the website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at office of the Executive Engineer (Elec), BDA, T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru. Contact No.: + 91 9845630164.

BDA/PRO/TN/30/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.)**

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga

Ph: 08182-222942, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two-cover system)

IFT NO: 65/ 2022-23 **Date : 23-12-2022**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W- 4 (two cover system). Contractors has registered in PWD Class-2 can apply for the work approved under **5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Appx-E 02 Works in Shimoga Tq, Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 423.52 Lakhs, Minimum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 422.12 Lakhs and Maximum EMD amount is Rs. 6.35 lakhs & Minimum EMD amount is Rs. 6.33 lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is as per notified in 09 Months includes Monsoon.**

The tenderers may submit tenders (viz., through Karnataka E-procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **23-12-2022 to 07-01-2023.** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **07-01-2023 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **09-01-2023 at 11.00 AM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **10-01-2023 Onwards.** If there any changes in publication it is published through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No.180-12 zenkar/2022-23 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shimoga.**

Government of Karnataka

Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri

Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No: 08375-232454

No. EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2022-23/5366 Date: 27-12-2022

E-Procurement Tender Notification No: /2022-23 (1st Call)

The Panchayat Raj Engineering Department through Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites the E-Portal Tender as per KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 from the eligible and approved Class-3 Contractors registered in PWD. and registered for e-Procurement for the following works, including their Defect liabilities Period for one year under Different schemes. Details can also be obtained in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

(1) Devihosur- Haveri Hanagal main Road (ST) (Indent No. 98377) (2) Bhookodihalli- Heggeri road (ST) (Indent No. 98482) (3) Devagiri- NH4 road (Indent No. 98488) (4) Didagur-Bidaragaddi road (Indent No. 98492) (5) Byadagi-Kururbagonda main road to Lingapura road (Indent No. 98497) (6) Hombaradi- Kurubagonda road (Indent No.98507) (7) Hosalli- M.A.Timmapura road (Indent No. 98506) (8) Devagiri-Kolur road (Indent No.98504)

(1) Last date for Receipt of completed tender documents through online : **04-01-2023** up to 4.00 PM (2) Date of technical bid opening (if possible) : **05-01-2023** @ 05.00 PM (For Sl.no. 1 to 5) (3) Date of Financial bid opening (if possible) : **09-01-2023** @ 11.00 AM (For Sl.no.6 to 8)

More details can also be taken from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also through the E-portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all departments.

DIPR/HVR/MCA/456/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

E-Tender Notification

(e – Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

I) No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F-324(7)/22-23/9930 Date: 28.12.2022

1. Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/22-23/EPR-35/Call-2 Dated: 23.11.2022 for Hiring One Tempo Traveller (14+1 seater) along with driver for usage by TLM S/d SRS Peenya pertaining to BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.

II) No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F-85(1)/22-23/9939 Date: 28.12.2022

2. Enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/22-23/EPR-34/Call-2 Dated: 07.11.2022 for Procurement of Desktop Computers and Printers for usage at Various Sub Stations coming under BMAZ (N).

III) No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-71(7,13&21)/22-23/9948-49 Date: 28.12.2022

3. Enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/EPR-38 Dated: 28.12.2022 for Replacement of existing age-old Control & Relay Panels at the following 66/11kV Sub-stations pertaining to TL&SS Division, Hebbal in the Jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey Basis.

1. 2X31.5MVA Transformer-1 & Transformer-2 at 66/11kV 'C" Station.
2. 1X31.5MVA Transformer-1 at 66/11kV Banaswadi Sub-Station.
3. 1x31.5MVA Transformer-2 & 66kV ITI-2 Line (ITI-Pottery Road) at Pottery Road Sub-Station.

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after 30.12.2022 (for Sl No.1 & 2) and 02.01.2023 (for Sl No.3) to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyper Link 'e procurement –KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Tr (M), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-9. Phone: 22386686-85

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur.

Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

NO:KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2022-23/3345 Dated:28.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work of **Bilagi Constituency Special Grant Works more than 50.00 Lakhs (1) Indent No. 23323 for Rs. 81.37 Lakhs (Others) (2) Indent No. 23324 for Rs. 82.12 Lakhs (Others) (3) Indent No. 23325 for Rs. 83.19 Lakhs (Others). The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 28-12-2022 to 17-01-2023 up to 5-00 PM in Two Cover System. Cover-I will be opened on 19-01-2023 at 11-00 AM (i.e., Technical Bid which contains necessary documents as per para 1.1). Cover-II will be opened on 23-01-2023 at 11-00AM (i.e., Financial Bid)** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/711/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, R.R. Nagara Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: EE/RI/RRN/TEND/05/Call-2/2022-23 Date: 29.12.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Bid Document-KW4)**

Name of the work	Appx. Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Annual maintenance of Arterial and Sub-Arterial roads including footpath in Rajarajeshwarinagara & Yashavanthapura Assembly Constituency area of RI-RRN Division. (Construction of New Culvert, Drain, Providing Grating to Underpass, Formation of footpath and other allied work in Rajarajeshwari -nagara & Yashavanthapura Assembly Constituency area of RI-RRN Division)	189.00	2,84,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from **29.12.2022**. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **05.01.2023** upto **5:30** pm and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (3) Last Date for Receipt of Queries is **31.12.2022** upto **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BBMP. (4) Pre-Tender Meeting will be held in the Office of the Chief Engineer, (Road Infrastructure) on **02.01.2023** at **4:00** pm to clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in"Instructions to Tenderers" of the Technical Bid Document. (5) Technical Bids will be opened from the website in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (Road Infrastructure-Rajarajeshwarinagara Division) on **07.01.2023** at **4:30** pm. (6) For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement Helpdesk at **080-22441076.** (7) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Rajarajeshwarinagara Division

Government of Karnataka

(Water Resources Department)

IRRIGATION PROJECTS, CADA DIVISION, KALABUAGI

Address : Plot No.21, Kotanur Dhariapura Road, G. D. A. Layout, 3rd Main Road, "B" Bock, Kalaburagi-585102), e-mail: eecadaipglb@gmail.com

No.EE/CADA/Kal-Div/PB-1,2,3/2022-23/1356 Date: 28-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of The Administrator, Irrigation Projects Zone, CADA, Kalaburagi, The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects,CADA. Division Kalaburagi has invited tenders for civil work from qualified contractors, the details of which are as follows.

1) Details of work : **4 Ayacut Road work,** 2) Head of Account: 2705 State Sector, 3) Amount put to tender: Minimum Rs. 50,52,086.22 + 18% GST, Maximum Rs. 71,54,440.81 + 18% GST, 4) Eligibility of Contractor: KPWD Class-1 and above, 5) Time limit for access to e-procurement portal : **From 29.12.2022 To 13.01.2023 upto 5.00 PM,** 6) Cost of Tender Application and E.M.D. amount: As per e-procurement portal, 7) The last date & time for receipt of tenders: **13.01.2023 5.00 PM**, 8) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: **16.01.2023 at 11.00 AM**, 8) Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **23.01.2023 at 11.00 AM**, 9) For tender queries and clarification: Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi, 10) Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIP/Kalaburagi/1029/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPC Division No-2, Bhalki

No. KNNL/EE/KPC2/TS-5/2022-23/1346 dated: 26.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONLY THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM) IN TWO COVER SYSTEM

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, K P C Division No.2, Bhalki in Two cover systems, from the contractors enrolled in KPWD of Karnataka State who fulfill the qualifying conditions, for the works details mentioned below.

The work Indent no's are 1)35144, 2)35145, 3)34864, 4)33905/Call-2 & 5)33988/Call-2. The amount put tender 1)415.19 LAKHS, 2)195.36 LAKHS, 3) 169.58 LAKHS, 4)195.36 lakhs & 5)200.53 lakhs respectively and EMD and Class of Contractor as per E-portal

Calendar of events: a)The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document 29-12-2022 @11.00am b) The Last date of Submission of completed tender documents 05-01-2023 @ 16.30Hrs c) Date of Opening of Technical Bid & Financial Bid is 06-01-2023 @ 17.00 Hrs & 07-01-2023 @ 17.01Hrs respectively. All details & information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours and visit website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/393/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPC, Division no-2, Bhalki.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA

(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURAGI-585105

Phone No: 08472-278634 Email:eerwssglb14@gmail.com

No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/2613 Dated : 27-12-2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honourable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below

The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through E-procurment system only 1) Name of work: Sedan Taluka -07 (Indent No 53351, 53354, 53357, 53358, 53355, 53508 &53509), 2) Head of A/C: JJM, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class- III & Above, 4) Tender Amount: Min 51,00,000/- Max 90,00,000/-, 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **24-12-2022**, 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **02-01-2023 4.00pm**, 8) Opening of Techincal Bid: **03-01-2023 4.01pm**, 9) Opening of Financial Bid: **05-01-2023 11:00am**, 10) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1024/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka

(PWD Division Raichur)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR

Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

No. PW / TS-4 / E-Proc Tender Corrigendum / 2022-23 /5197 Date:21.12.2022

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Tender Notification in respect of Raichur District Works regarding.

Ref: 1)This office tender notification No. 5015 Date.14-12-2022. 2015.

To whom soever concern, the Time Extension in respect of the Sl No 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 30. works for which tender was invited under this office notification reference cited above, may please be read as follows.

Sl No	Subject	Last Date of Receipt	Extended Date of Receipt
1	Last Date & Time for Receipt of tenders.	29-12-2022	05-01-2023
2	Date & Time for Opening of Tenders	30-12-2022	06-01-2023

For any clarifications please contact office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Raichur

1) The Tenderer shall obtain the workdone certificate in the prescribed format from the Competent Authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer (District Level Officer) and scan the Original Certificate and attach the scanned file to the Bid. The Original Certificate/Certificates shall be produced at the time of opening of the technical Bids for physical verification. 2) The bidder should enclose/upload the site / Spot inspection / investigation report duly certified by the concerned sub division Assistant Executive Engineer , in the absence of the same the bid will be liable for rejection. 3) Bid amount has been change to including 18% GST

DIP/Raichur/508/K.S MC&A/2022-23 **SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Division, RAICHUR.**

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Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HARISH Raju M B alias Harish Mysore Balakrishna Raju S/O M N Balakrishna Raju R/O 14/3, 4th Floor, 15th Main,17th H Cross, Rose Garden Road, J P Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru, Karnataka–560078 have changed my name to Harish Lahr vide affidavit dated 26–12–2022 sworn before notary Shubhani, Mangaluru

I, CHAMPU.R, W/o N.Naveen, R/a 194, 9th Crs, 2nd Mn, Ganganagar, R.T.Nagar Po, B'luru-32 have changed my name to Champa.R vide affidavit dt: 28.12.2022 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, B'lore.

I, FARIHA, D/O. Mohammad Farookh, R/O. A07, Zonasha Paradiso, Alpine Eco Road, Doddanekkundi, Mahadevapura, Blr–48, have changed name to Fariha Mohammad Farookh vide afdvt dtd 28/12/22

I, SANIYA Afreen Khan residing at No.383, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Vyalikaval, Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore-560003 have entered my different name in Old Passport Saniya Afreen my actual correct name is Saniya Afreen Khan vide Affidavit dated.22-12-2022 sworn before Notary M. Venkataraman, Bangalore

I, Nellore Nagaraju alias Nagaraju N V alias Nagaraju N S/o Nellore Shankar Rao, R/o No. 987, Shantha Nilaya, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560040, changed my name to Nagaraj Kashyap Nallur for all purposes in future.

I, Shanmugam G R/o #66 5th A Cross Manjunath Nagar, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043 have changed my minor son's name from S Naveen to S Naveen Kumar for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SEEMA Gauri D/o Jaipal Singh and W/o Sanjay, R/o #47, Venkateshwara Nilaya, Wind Tunnel Road, 5th Cross, Avalappa Layout, Murgeshpalya, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name from Seema Gauri to Seema Devi vide affidavit dt: 28-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, MUNEER Kabeer Ahmed S/o Muneer Ahmed Khan residing at No.271,4th E Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 Karnataka have changed my name to Kabeer Ahmed vide affidavit dated 28-12-2022 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

MARKETING

REQUIRED 3 – 5 years exp in Sales for Engineering company @ Chennai 72002 88972

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
M&EE DEPARTMENT

e-Tender No. MEE/29/2022/DYCME(MP&OH)
e-Tender is invited for "SITC of Mooring Capstans complete assembly 5 Nos with CAMC for 3 years".
For further details/ corrigendum if any, Visit
www.chennaiport.gov.in &
www.eprocure.gov.in
Chief Mechanical Engineer

Metro to run till 2 a.m. on January 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the benefit of commuters on New Year's eve, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has extended train services until 2 a.m. of January 1.

While operating at a 15-minute frequency, the last trains from Majestic to the four extreme stations would depart at 2 a.m.

BMRCL said that from M.G. Road, Trinity and Cubbon Park stations, only paper tickets will be issued at a cost of ₹50 to any metro station during the extended hours (after 11.30 p.m.).

While no tokens will be issued at the three stations, paper tickets could be bought in advance from 8 p.m. on December 31. The paper tickets will be valid for journeys only from the three above mentioned stations while smart cards with normal discounted fares will be valid during the extended period from all stations.

Tight security for New Year's Eve celebrations

Over 8,500 police personnel will be in place to ensure no untoward incident happens and there is no overcrowding in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have made elaborate security arrangements for the New Year's Eve, with over 8,500 personnel to be deployed to ensure no untoward incident happens and there is no overcrowding.

Amidst new COVID-19 restrictions, the city police have imposed a 1 a.m. deadline on the festivities.

Women safety islands

City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy said they have also set up women safety islands and watch towers at strategic locations.

Apart from CCTV cameras, drones, and enforcement cameras, the city police have used geo-tagging app to map 1.7 lakh CCTV cameras installed in and around the city, which will be utilised in case of any eventualities and investigation, he said.

He advised people not to drink and drive, and to use the public transport. He said hospitals have also been roped in to provide dedicated beds for inebriated people showing unruly behaviour to keep them under medical watch.

Mr. Reddy said that as a special case, the deadline for the use of loudspeakers and public address systems had been relaxed till midnight, but those using it have to take police permission.

"Teams will be patrolling with decibel meters to check that the noise levels do not cross the permissible limits," he said.

Though the COVID-19 protocols are in place, people entering public places are advised to remove masks for security checks.

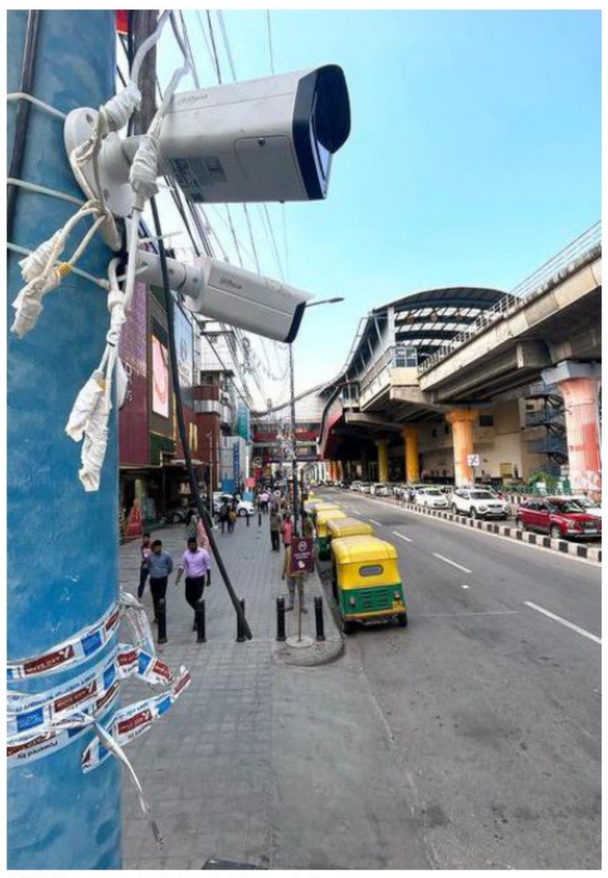
People with licenced weapons have been asked not to carry arms during celebrations and the hotels and party organisers have been advised not to allow people carrying arms.

The most sought-after destination in the city for the celebrations, Brigade Road, will turn into a fortress on New Year's eve.

Apart from traffic restriction on Brigade Road on Friday, the entrance of M.G. Road and Brigade Road will have doorframe metal detectors and anti-sabotage checks in place.

The city police have been instructed to keep an eye on rave parties and drug-peddling incidents and conduct special drives.

In December alone, the city police have registered 547 cases under the NDPS Act, arrested 637 people, and recovered 344.7 kg of drugs.



A CCTV camera installed at Brigade Road. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Traffic diversions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic police have banned the movement of vehicles on all flyovers and on NICE Road from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. except the airport flyover, to contain incidents of drag racing, rash and negligent driving and drunk driving. All types of vehicle movement and parking in the CBD areas have been banned from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Saturday.

People coming to the CBD areas have been advised to use public transport to avoid congestion.

Vaccine certificates of hotel, restaurant staff being checked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a spurt in COVID-19 cases and with the coming New Year festivities, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started checking the vaccine certificates of staff in restaurants and hotels in the city.

The recent State government guidelines have mandated that pubs, hotels, and restaurants only allow people with masks, institute thermal screening, and put up sanitiser facilities for all indoor events.

Last year, the civic body issued a circular mandating commercial establishments, including hotels and offices, to ensure that all their employees are vaccinated. "The civic body is checking the vaccination certificates of hotel employees ahead of the New Year celebrations, where a lot of people will go to restaurants and bars and pubs. This may increase COVID-19 infection and hence we have taken this precautionary measure," a BBMP Health Department official said.

Recent guidelines mentioned that staff of hotels, pubs, restaurants, clubs, and resorts are expected to have taken at least two doses of the vaccine

The recent guidelines specifically mentioned that organizers, managers, and service staff of hotels, pubs, restaurants, clubs, and resorts are expected to have taken at least two doses of the vaccine.

"Though the government has not made booster dose must, the guidelines clarify that staffers have to mandatorily take two doses of the vaccine," the official added.

Within capacity

"All large assemblies shall strictly be outdoor and as far as possible in the day. The prescribed capacity of the areas shall not be exceeded, particularly in indoor areas (seating like hotels), pubs, restaurants, clubs, resorts," said Randeep D., Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services, said in a circular.

2022 began and ends with a bang for Kannada cinema

REWIND 2022

Nalme Nachiyar
BENGALURU

Rishab Shetty in a still from the film *Kantara* and below a still from *'KGF: Chapter 2'*.

2022 began and is ending with a bang for the Kannada Film Industry (KFI). Emboldened by the success of the *KGF* franchise, directors and producers in the KFI aimed for more. Kannada cinema became bigger and louder; bigger in canvas, budget and ambition, as well as louder in decibels, machismo and spectacle.

Yash-starrer *KGF: Chapter 2*, the most expensive Kannada film ever made on a budget of ₹100 crore, was undoubtedly the biggest blockbuster of the year. Meanwhile, Rakshit Shetty's *777 Charlie* and Sudeep's *Vikrant Rona* also swept the box office.

But it was Rishab Shetty's *Kantara*, made on a small budget of ₹16 crore, which became a global phenomenon, underscoring the importance of telling culturally-rooted stories.

The resounding success of *KGF: Chapter 2* was not entirely unforeseen after the rousing reception to its predecessor, *KGF: Chapter 1* (2018).

However, as the year inched to a close, the unexpected triumph of *Kantara* left everyone, including its makers, stumped. Directed and performed by Rishab Shetty, this fantasy thriller weaved a story of power, oppression and land rights with coastal Karnataka's ritualistic tradition of Bhootaaradhane, which, for once, was more than just a mystical prop to drive the narrative. In *Kantara*, Indian cinema got its biggest surprise; a small budget film that did massive numbers.

KGF gave the Kannada audience a taste of maximalist, event cinema, veering the industry towards an exciting, but dangerous path.

Since 2018, riding the pan-India wave, filmmakers have attempted to recreate the success of *KGF* with little luck. 2022 was no different, made worse by the streaming-induced content fatigue. In a post-COVID world, filmmakers struggled to draw the audiences from the comfort of their homes back to the big screen.

The massive successes of tentpole productions, however, failed to rub off on the theatrical fortunes of small and medium-budget Kannada films. Despite opening to good reviews, content-driven films like *Sakutumba Sametha*, *Dollu*, *Kamblihula*, *Gilky* and *Guru Shishyaru*, to name a few, had to settle for an OTT release following a short run in the theatres.

The pan-India trend was KFI's undoing. The common audience appeared wary of making a trip to the cinemas unless they were promised a "big screen experience."

Besides, the industry's track record of inconsistent storytelling proved to be its own nemesis. Of close to 200 films released in Kannada this year, only about 15 to 20 films were critically appreciated. Even fewer films appealed to the audience, washed out by the very wave of popularity they were trying to ride.

Looking ahead to 2023

The breakout star of 2022, however, was neither an actor nor a director but a production house. Hombale Films, the major force behind the *KGF* franchise and *Kantara* not only transformed the way films are made, but also marketed.

With Hombale announcing productions in Telugu (Prabhas' *Salaar*), Tamil (Keerthy Suresh's *Raghu Thatha*) and Malayalam (Fahadh Faasil's *Dhoomam* and Prithviraj Sukumaran's *Tyson*), 2023 will be a promising year for cross-border collaborations.

Many star vehicles in Kannada also await a release, among them Darshan's *Kranti*, Upendra's *Kabzaa*, Rakshit Shetty's *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* and Sriimurali's *Bagheera*.

2022 was the year of Kannada cinema. But while we celebrate the return of the angry young man, it is pertinent to ask if mid-size and smaller Kannada films have been sacrificed on the altar of his violence.

Fortune may favour the brave, but without a compelling story to tell, it is only a matter of time before the roaring, raging, rebellious hero turns hoarse and jaded.

Jana Sahitya Sammelanas in city on January 8 and 29 to counter Kannada Sahitya Sammelana of KSP in Haveri

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The stage is being set for two Jana Sahitya Sammelanas in Bengaluru. The events are being organised by a section of writers and intellectuals who are unhappy with the manner in which Kannada Sahitya Sammelana is being organised by Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) in Haveri from January 6 to 8. They allege that Muslim writers and women writers have not been given their due in the main sessions of the Haveri event.

The first Jana Sahitya Sammelana will be organised on January 8 at Alumni Hall, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru. The second, on a larger scale, is being planned at Palace Ground in Bengaluru on January 29.

According to the organisers, the two events are not an alternative to the Sahitya Sammelan, but 'a form of resistance'.

Scholar Prof. Purushottama Bilimale told *The Hindu*, "Up to a point, Kannada Sahitya Parishat worked to fulfil the needs of Kannadigas. A great writer of Kannada could also be its president. But now, it has exhausted its possibilities and is sluggish. It does not know how to understand the effects of globalisation and communalism, that have grown since 1992, on Kannada language, literature and culture. It has been reduced to an event management organisation that organises a conference once a year with government funding."

He said that the two Sammelanas in Bengaluru will be organised through crowd-funding.

According to one scholar, the Kannada Sahitya Parishath has been reduced to an event management organisation that organises a conference once a year with government funding.

Two labourers killed in wall collapse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two labourers, including a woman, were killed when a part of the compound wall of the MEG Officers Colony collapsed on them in Bharati Nagar Thursday. The deceased have been identified as Ashamma, 21, a native of Challakere in Chitradurga district, and Akram Ul Haq, 22, from West Bengal.

They were working on the repair and painting of the compound wall, a portion of which collapsed around 6.30 p.m. Ashamma was declared brought to dead to the hospital, while Akram succumbed while undergoing treatment a few minutes later.

Bheemashankar S. Guled, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East), said, the repair work was given to a private contractor. "A huge tree adjacent to the compound leaned on it and had weakened the wall. We suspect that the soil surrounding the compound wall was loose or the wall itself was weak leading to its collapse," he said.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BANGALORE 560029 (ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT) Ph:080-26995215

Ref. No.: NIMH/ENG/HOES/1327/2022-23 Date: 29.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore for the following work on e-procurement platform **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** last date for uploading tender is on **07.01.2023** up to **4:00 pm**.

Class I registered Civil contractors of KPWD / CPWD & e-procurement Registration of Government of Karnataka e-portal only.

Note: GST will be paid separately on tendered / bill amount

1	Construction of fifth and sixth floor over expansion of existing Thunga hostel (phase-3) in NIMHANS campus Bangalore. (on two cover system / stage).	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs. 415.35 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 11 months EMD is Rs. 6,23,100/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT 207.

For information, Please visit NIMHANS website: **www.nimhans.ac.in** and on e-procurement platform **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Head of Engg Section

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(RURAL DEVELOPMET & PANCHAYT RAJ DEPT.)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering , Division Yadgir - 585202

No.EE/PRED/YDG/TENDER/TA-3/5054/2022-23/967 Date: 27-12-2022

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Yadgir here by invites separate (KW-4 Two Cover) Technical & Financial Bid Tender on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor Karnataka from the eligible civil contractor for works approved Under 5054Hon'ble CM Spl. Grant For The Year 2022-23 details as below.

Works details:- 1). IMPROVEMENT OF MUNDARAGI VILLAGE TO WARKANAHALLI ROAD AND ALSO IMPROVEMENT OF MASKANAHALLI VILLAGE TO MYLAPURA ROAD IN YADAGIRI TALUK, DIST. YADGIRI. INDENT NO. RDPR/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT98256 2). Amount put to Tender: Rs. 2,12,02,079=05 3) Eligibility of Contractors : Class-1 and Above 4) Date of Commencement of downloading of bidding document Date: 29-12-2022 to 07-01-2023 5)Cost of Tender form and EMD : as per e-Procurement 6) Last Date to Submit bids on e-portal : Date: 07-01-2023 before 4.00 pm 7) Opening of Technical Bid : Date: 09-01-2023 after 11.00 am 8) Opening of Financial Bid : Date: 13-01-2023 after 11.00 am. 9) For more information contact Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Station Area Yadgir. 10) web site:http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through e-Procurement system only

Note: - Pre Bid Meeting Date `04-01-2023 at Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Office, Station Road, Yadgir.

DIP/Yadagiri/387/K.S.M.C&A 2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division Yadgir

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು-562110
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dudc_blr@yahoo.co.in, dudc.blrrural@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಜಿನಕೋ(ಪಿ3)/ಸಿಆರ್/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಪೌಸನಿ/21/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.12.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಯೋಜನೆ (ಹಂತ-4)ರ ಅಡಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಸಚಿವರ ವಿವೇಚನೆಯನ್ವಯ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಾಮಫಲಕ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **(DMA/2022-23/OW/Work_Indent143226)**

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Name of work: Providing and Erection of Welcome Boards for Main Roads, Sign Boards and pavement makers for ward main roads and other works in Hoskote CMC Limits.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING PROCESS

(1) Last date and time for receiving queries: **08.01.2023, Time: 04:00 PM.** (2) Venue, Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **09.01.2023, Time : 11:00 A.M.** at Bangalore Rural DC Office (3) Last date and time prescribed for submission of bid (s) (Bid due date): **12.01.2023, Time : 05:00 P.M** (4) Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid (s): **13.01.2023, Time: 05:30 P.M** (5) Date and time of opening of Financial Bid(s) of Technically qualified bidder(s): **23.01.2023, Time: 11:00 A.M** (6) Validity of Bids: **90 days.**

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ದಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ದಾಪ್ರಾ/ಎಎಎ/3773/2022-23

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Stills from *Peacemaker*, *Black Adam*, *Moon Knight*, and *The Batman*.

2022: A year of trial and error for superhero themed cinema

This year, Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and DC played with form, introduced newer formats of storytelling, redefined established tropes, gave us some great characters to root for

Bhuvanesh Chandar

The superhero movie industry is fascinating even from a content creation standpoint.

Maintaining a reader's interest in comic books is one thing, but with live-action movies raking in billions of dollars at the box office, and with hit rates at their most volatile phase, leaps of faith are inevitable. Creators have to keep offering something new, in a fresher package, and simultaneously be aware of what's working and what's not. In 2022, the superhero genre saw tons of such experiments.

Marvel and its vast arsenal

After many misfires and some surprises, Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe ended in 2022 with the release of *The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special*. It has arguably been the most challenging phases for Marvel, but that's primarily due to how much the studio pushed the boundaries to experiment with format, form, and content. 2022 was the pinnacle of it, as of now.

It's no news that Marvel studios have been utilising its streaming platform Disney+ to test newer formats of storytelling. This year, we got regular television series, miniseries, and even telefilms. Given its popularity among younger audiences, it was obvious for the studio to make *I am Groot*, a mini-series with episodes spanning less than five minutes, apt for casual viewing to see Baby Groot indulge in all types of shenanigans, including a dance-off with a jello-like shapeshifting alien. The newly-introduced telefilm format seems to be working wonders as well, especially for introducing considerably popular comic-book characters economically and with canon value. Man-Thing in *Werewolf by Night* was one such example.

It wouldn't be a surprise anymore if Marvel goes on to extend the storyline from successful telefilms to make movies that are canon to the bigger narrative. This is precisely how Marvel uses its other products with a standalone series. The Evil Doctor Strange narrative from last year's animated anthology series *What If...?* made its way into the MCU with this year's *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*. Marvel continues playing with formats as a segue between tentpole titles. This year, we got a sweet little Christmas telefilm from James Gunn, *The Guardians of the Galaxy: Holiday Special*, which despite being a great standalone short, had immense canon value especially considering the reveal involving Mantis and Star-Lord. This can be expected from a studio that, last year, gave Falcon a television run to pass on the Captain America mantle.

Putting their collective experience in introducing fresh characters to great use, Marvel gave three spectacular fan favourites this year, all through limited series: *Moon Knight*, *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law*, and *Ms. Marvel*. And putting these names beside each other seems bizarre, given how drastically different they are. Ms. Marvel, Marvel's first South Asian superhero with a comic book, got a stunning entrance. A story about a teenager grappling with teenager issues and superpowers isn't new to Marvel, but *Ms. Marvel* fleshes out a real Pakistani-American character who questions notions and reconnects with her roots. This is a series that shows its lead character struggle with everyday issues, along with world-ending ones.

While that series managed to take us to a whole new dimension inside the MCU, *Moon Knight* upped the notch several times. Everything about *Moon Knight*, headlined by Oscar Isaac, is refreshing and exciting. An unreliable narrator anchors a mind-bending story that also features a secret society of Egyptian gods inside pyramids. On top of all, never has a Marvel title played so much psychologically as *Moon Knight*.

You might have known She-Hulk as the cousin of Hulk who loves to break the fourth wall. And Marvel's miniseries finds a great comedian in the character, a hesitant superhero and criminal lawyer, who is forced to confront her insecurities and the downers of adulting. She stands against sexism, slut-shaming, and body-shaming, while also not pausing to dress like she desires and twerk if she wants to. More than the titular character, it was a blast to see the studios re-introduce Daredevil in the most unexpected fashion.

When it comes to content, even well-established titles got a fresher coat this year. Thor is the only original Avenger with an active solo franchise, and in *Thor: Love and Thunder*, he proves that there is more scope for innovative storylines in his future. After rebooting the character's franchise with *Thor: Ragnarok*, Taika Watiti goes a bit further and even redefines the first two Thor films through a montage voiced by Korg. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* cannot entirely be attributed to the result of experimentation. The film was more of a crisis management, given the untimely death of Chadwick Boseman, but never has real-world grief been explored in such grounding fashion in a superhero movie.

A test of hope for DC

2022 hasn't been the year for DC with the news about the new studio heads, Gunn and Peter Safran, rebooting the entire live-action universe that was established with *Man of Steel*. But until the news broke in, DC had a great run with three very different titles trying out three distinct ideas on glorious display: *Peacemaker*, *The Batman*, and *Black Adam*.

Peacemaker was the first sign of a universe that was getting back to its groove. After introducing the character in his rebooted *The Suicide Squad* movie, Gunn created a black comedy series with John Cena's character, which became one of the most popular DCEU titles on HBO Max. Gunn took a narcissistic, despicable, dim-witted anti-hero and made him turn on a new leaf through a storyline that is mental, to say the least: an alien species with bodies that look like a butterfly take over people's bodies, and they survive by drinking the amber fluid produced by a giant alien blob called 'cow'. No punches were pulled in this adult-only show, the future of which is currently unknown.

Similarly, DC also introduced a new anti-hero to the mix this year, also headlined by a WWE star, but *Black Adam* is more than just another feature. The film which was the result of superstar Dwayne Johnson's decade-long efforts was meant to recourse and re-establish the universe. It certainly isn't an easy gamble to extend so much responsibility to a character that popular moviegoers are not familiar with, but that's what the creators were going for. Not only did the film have a solid story that opened to a wide range of scenarios, but it also served as a great launching pad for the Justice Society – remember, DCEU hadn't been lucky with such ensembles. And, of course, Dwayne also breathed new hope into this universe by bringing back Henry Cavill's Superman, until things went awry for DCEU on the whole.

But the best DC title of the year is none of the above and it also happens to be its wildest and most exciting storyline to look forward to. Introducing a new character is one thing, but how do you present a fresh version of the most popular superhero with infinite versions before you? Matt Reeves' *The Batman* is the answer. After Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy, this is the second most grounded, sober, and up-and-close portrayal of a caped crusader who also had a shade of vulnerability. Not only did Reeves succeed to overcome all expectations, but he also did it with a form that is unlike any other superhero film and, in fact, was considered unideal for the genre – it was dialogue-driven, pandering to DC's already much-debated dark visual tone, it has the hero fail more than succeed, and it's the plot that fuels action here.

Everything is up in the air now. We are still unsure how Marvel's storyline will bring everyone together for the next *Avengers* film. Writing-wise, Marvel could do way better, especially with intriguing characters like She-Hulk and Ms. Marvel. However, with *Thunderbolts*, *Blade*, *The Marvels*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Deadpool 3* coming up, the sky is the limit for what to expect in the MCU. So is the case for DC. Gunn recently announced that fans will get more clarity in January. We may not have a Superman currently, but hope prevails.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the different food cuisines across India

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

S. Venkataraghavan

QUESTION 1

The Hindi word 'chaatna', meaning 'to lick', has led to a genre of popular street. What finger-licking category of food does this refer to ?

QUESTION 2

A batter made of a mixture of rice and urad dal is steamed to make this soft, spongy and savoury snack found across over Gujarat .Name this famous dish.

QUESTION 3

Goan cuisine is known for its abundance usage of fresh seafood, but one of the Goan speciality includes this spicy dish that features pork. What is one of its most famous dish which is derived from the Portuguese cuisine?

QUESTION 4

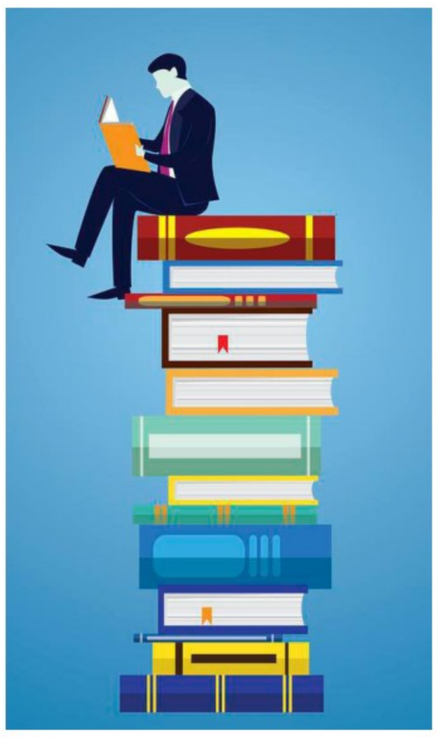
By what popular name do we know a tempered mix of spices (noun) and the same word also is a verb describing the act of tempering spices in hot oil?

QUESTION 5

A popular breakfast of Karnataka is a combination of kesari bath (sweet) and Khara bath (spicy rava upma) served with coconut chutney. Name the dish.

Visual question:
Identify this gentleman who passed away recently and whose claim on the popular food dish he invented has always met with polemics in India. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz. 1. Name the painting commissioned by Ludovico Sforza for the Dominican monastery. **Ans: The Last Supper**
2. How has Lisa Gherardini been immortalised by Da Vinci? **Ans: She is the subject of the Mona Lisa**
3. Name Leonardo's pen-and-ink drawing on the ideal human proportions. **Ans: Vitruvian Man**
4. Scholars attribute this oil and tempera painting to be Leonardo's earliest existing major. Name the work. **Ans: The Annunciation**
5. Of the two versions of this painting with the same name, one is displayed at the Louvre and the other in the National Gallery in London. Name the painting. **Ans: Virgin of the Rocks**
6. Identify the animal whose name forms part of the title of the work. **Ans: Ermine (Lady with an Ermine)**
Visual: Name the billionaire who bought this collection. **Ans: Bill Gates**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Hardika Choudhary | Rakesh Ravi | Tania Neogi



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Mr. C. S. Ramamoorthy of Coimbatore wants to know the meaning of 'Even Homer sometimes nods'.

"It means that even the best people may occasionally be dull or make mistakes. This is with reference to some of the dull and uninteresting passages in Homer's epics. The expression is from *The Art of Poetry* written by Horace, a Roman poet. Here are the relevant lines:

"... and it annoys me
Whenever good Homer nods and is caught napping.
Though it is only right that over a work so long
Slumber should softly steal."

'Nod' here is used in the sense of 'to make a mistake as if asleep or half asleep'.

Krishna is generally alert. But I caught him nodding the other day.

'To nod' also means 'to indicate by nodding'.

When I asked him whether I could go ahead with the plan, he nodded in approval.

He gave the nod to start the game.

'On the nod' means 'approval without taking a vote'.

The Board accepted the report on the nod.

Mr. G. Viswanath of Madurai wants to know the meaning of 'raison d'etre'.

It is a French expression and is used in English. It means 'reason or justification for a thing's existence'.

This institution has almost ceased to have raison d'etre.

Plunder was the very raison d'etre of the power of the East India Company.

It is pronounced 'raysawndaytr'. 'Ray' rhymes with 'day', 'sawn' rhymes with 'dawn' and 'lawn', 'day' rhymes with 'ray', 'tr' is as in 'trick' and 'try'.

Mr. S. Raghavan of Madras and Mrs. Radha Bharatan of Sriharikota want to know whether 'too' can be used in the sense of 'very'.

Example: *Our cabin crew will be only too happy to assist you.*

In modern English, it is acceptable colloquially.

He is not too well.
My health isn't too good.
The coffee is too hot.
He is too gentle.

Ms. V. Jayanthi of New Delhi wants to know whether it is correct to use 'th' after Roman numerals.

You should not write 'th' or 'nd' after Roman numerals.

George V and not George Vth. George V is read 'George the Fifth' and not 'George Five'.

George III is read George the Third and not George Illrd or George Three.

The tenth Sonnet or Sonnet X.

The eighteenth century or XVIII century.

The third century or III century.

Word of the day

Concomitant:
an event that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

Synonyms: attendant, accompanying, collateral

Usage:
These drugs can be given concomitantly with chemotherapy.

Pronunciation: https://bit.ly/3jCuo5T

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kən'kɒmɪt(ə)nt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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ನವ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ–ಯುವ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳು

ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಅಮೃತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ

ಸಹಕಾರದಿಂದ ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿ

ಸಹಕಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಹಾಗೂ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ /ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತಾಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಸಮಾವೇಶ

ಸ್ಥಳ : ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ವಿಹಾರ, ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ.4 (ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ಗ್ರ್ಯಾಂಡ್)
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–12–2022 । ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಅಮಿತ್ ಶಾ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಚಿವರು

ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪುಗಳ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಣೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಪ್ರಾಸ್ತಾವಿಕ ನುಡಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಟಿ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಚಿವರು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ
ಡಾ॥ ಸಿ. ಎನ್. ಅಶ್ವಥ್‌ನಾರಾಯಣ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಐ.ಟಿ.–ಬಿ.ಟಿ., ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸೌಧ, ಮಾರ್ಗೋಸಾ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31ನೇ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 2022 । ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ: 1:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಅಮಿತ್ ಶಾ** ರವರನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಟಿ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್** ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ನಿಯಮಿತದ **ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು** ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಮನವಿ ಪತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಸಂದರ್ಭ.

ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಪ್ರಗತಿ

- ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸುಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ರಚಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮಾದರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಂತೆ ರಚಿತವಾಗಿ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಪತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01.01.2001 ರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 5742 ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳು ನೋಂದಣಿಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಶೇರು ಬಂಡವಾಳ ರೂ.1077 ಕೋಟಿ, ಕಾಯ್ದಿಟ್ಟ ನಿಧಿಗಳು ರೂ. 2295 ಕೋಟಿ, ದುಡಿಯುವ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ರೂ.31,367 ಕೋಟಿ, ಠೇವಣಿಗಳು ರೂ.27,280 ಕೋಟಿ, ಸಾಲಗಳು ರೂ.20,923 ಕೋಟಿ, ಲಾಭ ರೂ.359 ಕೋಟಿ, ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 62 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿರುವವರು 55,000.
- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯು ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಮಾದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಜನ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳಿಂದ ರಚಿತವಾಗಿರುವ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಲಿಯು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಲಿದೆ.

ಶಾಸನಬದ್ಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು :

- ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ದಾಖಲಾದ ದಾವಾ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 24,500 ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇವುಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 13,878 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 10,622.
- ಇ–ಸ್ಟಾಂಪಿಂಗ್ : ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮವಾಗಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಸ್ಟಾಂಪಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿರುವ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ 1574 ಇ-ಸ್ಟಾಂಪಿಂಗ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿವೆ.
- ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನಿ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಮಾಸ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ : ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನಿ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಮಾಸ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಮುದ್ರಣದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸಹ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಯೂಟ್ಯೂಬ್ ಚಾನೆಲ್ : ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸುವ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಗಳನ್ನು ಯೂಟ್ಯೂಬ್ ಚಾನೆಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿಂಗ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮಾ : ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿಂಗ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮಾದ 4 ತಂಡಗಳು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆದು 1376 ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 5ನೇ ತಂಡವನ್ನು ಜನವರಿ 2023 ರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಗದಗ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
- ಸ್ವಂತ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳು ಸ್ವಂತ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿವೆ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ನಿವೇಶನ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದು ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಸಹಕಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿ

- 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 33 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಶೂನ್ಯ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ **ರೂ.24,000 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ** ಬೆಳೆ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ ತಹಲ್ **18.11 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ರೂ.13.480 ಕೋಟಿಗಳಷ್ಟು** ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ **3 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಹೊಸ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ **1.31 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಹೊಸ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- **ರಾಜ್ಯದ 20,466** ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಗೆ ರಿಯಾಯ್ತಿ ಬಡ್ಡಿದರದಲ್ಲಿ **ರೂ.839.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ** ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ **ರೂ.10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ**ಗಳವರೆಗಿನ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಮಧ್ಯಮಾವಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ ಸಾಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ.3ರ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ **0.25 ಲಕ್ಷ** ರೈತರಿಗೆ **782.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು** ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿರುವ **ರೂ.1078.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ರೂ.799.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು** ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಲ ಮನ್ನಾ ಯೋಜನೆ 2018 ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ರೂ.1.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗಿನ** ಸಾಲ ಮನ್ನಾ ಬಾಬ್ತು **17.06 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ 7,987 ಕೋಟಿ**ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಕೋವಿಡ್–19ರ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 42,524 ಆಶಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರಿಗೆ ತಲಾ **ರೂ.3,000/– ಗಳಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ.12.75 ಕೋಟಿ**ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನವಾಗಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ 6040 ಪ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ **ರೂ.236.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ** ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣಕೀಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆತ್ಮ ನಿರ್ಭರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹು ಉಪಯೋಗಿ ಸೇವಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ **ರೂ.158.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ** ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್‌ಗೆ ರೂ.5/–ಗಳ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನದ ಬಾಬ್ತು **ರೂ.1450.00 ಕೋಟಿ**ಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾದ ಯಶಸ್ವಿನಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಪುನರಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಶಸ್ವಿನಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮರುಜಾರಿ

ಯಶಸ್ವಿನಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಮರು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ 300 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದು ರೂ.100 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ರೈತ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ವಂತಿಗೆಯಾಗಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ 30 ಲಕ್ಷ ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸುವ ಗುರಿಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ನೋಂದಾವಣೆಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತತೆ, ಸ್ವಯಂ ಆಡಳಿತ, ಸ್ವಯಂ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ನಮ್ಮ ಧ್ಯೇಯ – ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರವೇ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಗಿಲು

ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಜಿ. ನಂಜನಗೌಡ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಎ. ಆರ್. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನಕುಮಾರ್
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಶರಣಗೌಡ ಜಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ್
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ

ಸೋಪಿನಿಂದ ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ

ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ

TAC seeks IISc., ISI help to prepare estimate of expected BF.7 caseload

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The staff at K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru making preparations to face any eventuality of COVID outbreak. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In order to ensure preparedness, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has sought help from experts at IISc and Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) to estimate using by mathematical modelling, the burden of COVID-19 in Bengaluru and the entire State based on the emerging trajectory of BF.7.

At its 189th meeting held on December 25, Sunday, the TAC requested IISc professor Rajesh Sundaresan and ISI professor Siva Athreya to prepare an estimate of the expected caseload in January-February.

No reliable data

At the meeting, the experts made a presentation titled "Present COVID-19 immunity landscape in Karnataka and Bengaluru". Quoting the presentation, TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* that estimating the number of COVID-19 cases in the context of the emerging global trajectory, particularly with reference to China, is difficult at this point as no reliable and official data is available.

"However, it is generally believed that BF.7, a subvariant of Omicron, may not trigger a wave as there is hybrid immunity (vaccine plus natural infection) in the population here. But stringent measures should be undertaken as a matter of precaution, and the evolution of the pandemic in the State has to be carefully studied for initiating further actions. We have requested these experts from IISc and ISI to study and give us a projection for the next two months in Karnataka," Dr. Sudarshan said.

"We have requested them to give us an estimate in a week as it will be helpful in pandemic management in terms of testing, beds, drugs and oxygen," he said. According to the TAC's report, the experts in their presentation, said data and models suggested that there was a minor XBB wave in Bengaluru in November 2022. "Since the Omicron wave, case to infection ratios (CIR) have substantially increased worldwide, and the same is likely for Karnataka. The immunity landscape of Karnataka is that of a population with three doses plus infection either (BA.1/.2) in January-February 2022 or (BA.4/.5/2.75) in July-September 2022. These are perhaps the reasons for the low caseload and low severity," according to their presentation.

"Data indicates that the immune escape of XBB is higher than that of other variants of concern BQ.1.1, BA.2.75.2, and BF.7. The variant BF.7 was detected in a few locations in July 2022 in India, but BA.5 and XBB variants still dominant. In Peru, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, XBB overtook BQ.1, BA.5," the presentation stated.

"The increased transmission in China and elsewhere will lead to the emergence of new variants. We should step up vaccination (for the newly eligible and for boosters) in the vulnerable districts, which could be identified from the paediatric serological survey. Clinical surveillance should also be intensified to track changes in symptoms apart from stepping up sequencing of severe cases at hospitals," the experts advised.

Metro line to KIA will be ready by December 2023: Bommai

Work on Reach 2, Reach 3, Reach 4 and Reach 5 under Phase 2 will be completed between April and September 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A file photo of the metro work on Ballari Road.

The Namma Metro line to Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru will be thrown open by December 2023, assured Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the final day of the winter session at the Legislative Council today.

Responding to Congress MLC K Govindaraju, who asked the Chief Minister to spell out the reasons for the slow pace of Metro work in Bengaluru, Mr. Bommai said two out of six Metro routes in Bengaluru under Phase 2 had already become operational while three other routes would be thrown open for commuters during 2023.

While work on Metro line to airport will be completed by December 2023, the work on Reach 2, Reach 3, Reach 4 and Reach 5 under Phase 2 will be completed between April to September 2023, he said. Expressing satisfaction over the pace of work in Bengaluru, Mr Bommai said Metro work is taken up in densely populated areas of the city that not only require acquisition of land but also shifting of utilities and service lines and translocation of trees.

He also pointed out that lockdown and restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic had hampered the progress of the work.

He said he was personally supervising the project with BMRCL and added that he had issued directions to the authorities to advance the completion of the work on Phase 2 of the project from 2024 to 2025.

Indian Institute of Astrophysics team surprised by discovery on hot stars and white dwarfs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Astronomers and scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), along with their international collaborators, while studying the Omega Centauri, which is the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, have found that hot stars and white dwarfs emitted less ultraviolet radiation than expected.

This has come as a surprise for the team of astronomers and scientists whose research work has been published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

"To our surprise, we found that the hot Horizontal Branch (HB) stars and white dwarfs in Omega Centauri were somewhat strange, that they emit relatively less light in the ultraviolet," said Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam, director of IIA and co-author of the research work.

Strange hot stars

The team detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) images on AstroSat (India's first dedicated space observatory, which has been operating since 2015).

The team found that these hot stars emitted much less ultraviolet radiation than expected from theoretical models and, in comparison with stars of another globular cluster, M13, having similar overall properties.

The IIA team combined the data from UVIT with archival data from other telescopes like Hubble Space Telescope and Gaia and used diagnostic plots called colour-magnitude diagrams (CMDs) to separate stars in various evolutionary phases.

The team investigated this anomaly further by simulating the distribution of the HB stars in the Far Ultraviolet(FUV) – optical CMD.

Five populations

The cluster was found to consist of at least five populations of stars with varying ages and chemical compositions, including those formed with significantly high content of helium.

The enhancement in helium could be one of the reasons for the lesser far-ultraviolet radiation emitted by these stars. About 24% of the HB stars were found to be helium enriched and older and segregated towards the cluster centre than those with normal helium content.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

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Phone: 0471 2529400, www.rgcb.res.in

No. RGCB/ADVT/SCI/02/2022 December 26, 2022

FACULTY SCIENTIST POSITIONS

The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) is an autonomous national institute of the Government of India, Ministry for Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology. The mandate of the institute is discovery, innovation and translation in biotechnology and disease biology.

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2. Scientist EI - 1 position (OBC)

Complete details including minimum qualifications, experience, age limit, and profile of work is posted on the institute website: www.rgcb.res.in. Eligible and interested scientists can submit their applications, in the prescribed format available on the RGCB website along with a proposed research plan (2 pages) with detailed resume/curriculum vitae and attested copies of all necessary certificates, experience certificates and other supporting documents on or before January 25, 2023 by either email as a PDF (to: facultyrecruitment@rgcb.res.in) or hard copy (to: DIRECTOR, RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY, POOJAPPURA, THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 695 014, KERALA, INDIA).

Sd/-,
Director

160 Agniveers under Agnipath scheme to undergo training

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 160 Agniveers selected under the Agnipath scheme have been selected to undergo training at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi.

They are the first batch of Agniveers selected under the Agnipath scheme from the Unit Headquarter Quota and from different Army Recruitment Offices and Zonal Recruitment Offices.

The candidates were selected after rigorous tests that included physical tests, medical tests, and a common entrance examination which was conducted between December 25 and December 29. The training of the first batch of Agniveers will commence from January 2, 2023.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the Agniveers who have reported for training have been received after thorough security checks, background checks, and documents verification processes. The selected Agniveers will undergo 10 weeks of basic military training, followed by 21 weeks of advanced military training at this Regimental Centre. Thorough preparations for training and administration have been made at the Regimental Centre, the Ministry said.

After successful completion of the training, Agniveers will be attested as young soldiers and will be despatched to the different Maratha Battalions.

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira, BSK II Stage, Bangalore - 70, Ph. 7760907939, 1) Grand Veena Concert by Ramana Balachandran of Thiruvannamalai, B.C. Manjunath - Mridangam, Anoor Sunaad- Khanjari on 1st January 2023 at 5.30 p.m. at Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira Concert hall. 2) H.S. Prashanth - Vocal, Nalina Mohan - Violin, N. Vasudev-Mridanga, Ranganatha Chakravarthy on Ghatam on 8th January, 2023 at 5.30 p.m. All are welcome. G.V. Krishna Prasad Hon. Secretary

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 30		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:03
RISE	12:29	SET 00:07
SATURDAY, DEC. 31		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:04
RISE	13:08	SET 00:58
SUNDAY, JAN. 01		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:04
RISE	13:48	SET 01:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	31	19
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid..Night will be slight cool.

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Police rescue 22 buffaloes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Channapatna Rural police rescued 22 buffaloes which were being transported in a goods vehicle on the outskirts of Channapatana on Thursday.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police intercepted the truck at a check post and found the cattle stuffed in a specially designed chamber.

The cattle were sent to a goshala in Kanakapura, while the police seized the truck and detained the driver for further investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the truck was heading to a illegal slaughterhouse in Bengaluru from Mandya.

Rashmi D'Souza, member of the State Animal Welfare Board, part of the operation, said that they will approach the government to intensify inspection at check points to monitor the illegal transportation of cattle.

SAD DEMISE

DOB 07 February 1942
DOD 29 December 2022

Smt. B. Lakshmidevi

"Lives of great people all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

Deeply Mourned by

Husband
V. G. Balasundaram
Trustee, VIT Bhopal

Dr. G. Viswanathan
Chancellor, VIT

Daughter
Ramani Balasundaram
Trustee, VIT Bhopal

Son-in-law
Sankar Viswanathan
Vice President, VIT

Granddaughter
Kadhambari S Viswanathan
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INBRIEF

Three members walk out of Council over pension scheme

Three members of the Legislative Council, including two from the ruling BJP, staged a walkout of the House over the State government's stand on the pension scheme.

After the issue was raised during Question Hour in the Legislative Council, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy said there is no proposal before the State government on shifting from the National Pension Scheme (NPS), which is currently in force, to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). However, BJP member Ayanur Manjunath questioned why legislators should have the benefits of OPS when the government employees did not. He walked out of the House against the denial of OPS, followed by BJP member S.V. Sankanur, who also was in favour of OPS. Meanwhile, JD(S) member too declared that he was walking out of the House in protest. In Bengaluru, former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda visited the employees protesting against NPS at Freedom Park and expressed his support.

From Page One

State carves out separate categories

While Panchamasalis had been demanding change of category from the current 3B to 2A, they have now been brought among all other Veerashaiva-Lingayats sub-castes in the newly formed 2D. Panchamasali leaders have reacted to the announcement with caution, saying that they would study the implications of what had been proposed.

Currently, the reservation matrix in Karnataka stands at 56% after the government increased the reservation for Scheduled Castes from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes from 2% to 7%.

CWC accepts DPRs of Kalasa-Banduri

Karnataka had submitted the revised DPRs complying with the tribunal's direction in respect of inter-State matters, hydrology and design aspects in November 2022.

Mandatory approvals

However, the note said that the approval is subject to strict compliance of project authority getting mandatory approval and clearances from technical agencies concerned as required by the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT) award and the law mentioned in the award. It has said that the final designs should be such that they are in full consonance with MWDT award as applicable.

The implementing authority has been told to communicate information related to daily withdrawal of Mahadayi waters on a regular basis to basin States, including Goa. Once the Mahadayi Water Management Authority, as mandated by the award, is constituted, regulation of diversion would be done in consultation with the authority. Besides, it has also specified efficient sediment management.

Kalasa-Banduri project: CWC clearance is a big step, but no cakewalk yet

Experts say there are significant riders that have come along with the clearance, and these are embedded in the award passed by MWDT in 2018

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Amid the celebration over the Central Water Commission (CWC) clearing the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the much-awaited Kalasa and Banduri schemes, experts point out that there are significant riders that have come along with the clearance.

These riders are embedded in the award passed by the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) headed by Justice J.M. Panchal on August 14, 2018, and are mentioned in the clearance given by the CWC on Thursday.

According to Supreme Court advocate Mohan Katarаki, "Grant of clearance by the CWC is a significant step. Karnataka has got a gate pass to obtain the applicable statutory clearances and implement the project in due course of time".

Leaders and members of the Bharatiya Janata Party organising 'Vijayotsav' (jubilation) in Hubballi on Thursday over the CWC giving clearance to DPR of the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project. KIRAN BAKALE

However, it has to be noted that allocations are made subject to the fresh preparation of Detailed Project Reports (to be prepared as directed by the Tribunal) and on obtaining the applicable clearances from the Union government under the Forest Conservation Act of 1985, Environment Protection Act of 1985 and others. That means still there is lot of work to get done.

In the conclusion mentioned in the clearance, CWC has clearly mentioned that the project authority shall get all the mandatory approval from other concerned technical agencies as may be required in terms of MWDT Award. It also mentions that project authority shall obtain all mandatory/statutory clearances as required by law mentioned in the MWDT award. Then there are pending cases before the Supreme Court, as mentioned by the CWC.

Viresh Sobaradmath, who led the longest agitation over Mahadayi (2,721 days as on date) at Naragund, said that the priority should be now to get the clearances and get the work done at the earliest.

He said that the revised DPR should have got the clearance much earlier and it was stalled for political reasons. "There is no contribution of Prime Minister, Union Ministers Amit Shah or Pralhad Joshi or anyone else in the issue. In the normal administrative process, they should have cleared it long back, but was stalled for political reasons," he alleged.

Focus on completion

All-India Krishik Samaj leader Sidagouda Modagi also advised the government against using it for electoral gains. "The double engine government should take it up on priority and complete the project on time," he said.

State convener of Farmers' Wing of Aam Admi Party, Vikas Soppin, who was involved in the Kalasa Banduri agitation, said that the riders had raised suspicion among the farmers about the initiation of the project. To clear the air, the government should immediately float tenders for the project and announce date of initiation of the works, he said.

(With inputs from Rishikesh Bahadur Desai)

Cong. to hold rally today in Vijayapura to flag pending irrigation projects

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After the Mekedatu march, and the Karnataka leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the State Congress leaders will hold a major rally in Vijayapura on Friday, to flag the neglect of long-pending irrigation projects in the Krishna basin by the BJP governments at the Centre and State. On January 2, the Congress leaders have decided to hold a rally in Hubballi for the delay in the execution of the Mahadayi project.

Interestingly, on the eve of the yatra, the Centre approved State's detailed project report (DPR) on the Kalasa-Banduri (Mahadayi) project, which was opposed by Goa. The execution of the Kalasa-Banduri project was a key poll promise the BJP had made during the 2018 Assembly election. Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general incharge of Karnataka, tweeted "The 2nd Jan, 2023, Mahadayi Water Rally of @INCKarnataka at Nehru Stadium, Hubli has finally woken up Modi Govt from its deep slumber, after 8 years of being in power. This is too little, too late. Kannadigas, especially of Belagavi, Hubli-Dharwad won't pardon BJP's betrayal."

Show of unity

The Congress leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, would participate in the rally, a show of unity before the two leaders embark separately on "bus yatras" from North Karnataka and South Karnataka, respectively, on January 11.

The Congress, hoping to recapture power in the State, is underlining the emotive water-related issues. It has been blaming the ruling BJP governments in New Delhi and Bengaluru for delay in the execution of projects to utilise the State's allocation of water under the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT).

The final award of the KWDT was published in 2013, but the delay in the final notification has denied the State the right to irrigate 3.5 lakh hectares under Upper Krishna Project Stage-III in drought-prone Kalyana Karnataka region, the Congress leaders alleged. The notification of the final award was delayed with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments moving the Supreme Court opposing it.

The State has been involved in disputes over sharing the waters of inter-State rivers such as the Cauvery, Krishna and Mahadayi. During the BJP rule in January 2013, the Congress leaders undertook padayatra "Congress Nadige Krishneya Kadege " and successfully galvanised the party workers and voters towards the party which secured power in 2013 by creating awareness about the importance of completing the ongoing irrigation projects in Krishna basin. However, the BJP countered the Congress allegations stating that it had given more priority to irrigation projects than the Siddaramaiah government.

Work on project will start soon: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the work on Kalasa-Banduri project would commence as the Centre accepted the DPRs, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said that the tenders for the project would be called soon even as he blamed the Congress for delaying the project.

"The construction of pump house will also start soon. I will come personally to the launch project," Mr. Bommai told pressersons at Belagavi while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving approvals. "Despite facing several obstacles, we have succeeded in securing approvals. It was a coordinated efforts of all BJP Ministers," he said.

Dedicating the success in securing the approvals to farmers of North Karnataka who fought for the project, he also said that the government will look into withdrawal of cases filed against farmers in various agitations. When asked if the project progress will now hinge on judiciary, Mr. Bommai said: "The tribunal order is a decree of the Supreme Court. Since it has been notified, there will be no problems."

Recalling his father and former Chief Minister S.R. Bommai's efforts in the project, he said: "In 1988, my father spoke to the then Goa chief minister, and agreed to barter power with water. It was originally a power project. Subsequent leaders in Goa turned it into an issue."

Both Houses of legislature adjourned *sine die*

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Both the Houses of Karnataka legislature were adjourned *sine die* on Thursday, a day ahead of the earlier schedule. The session began on December 19.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, in his final remarks, said the Assembly met for 41 hours and 20 minutes in the last nine days. He thanked the members for their cooperation in conducting the House business. Even as Congress members wanted opportunity to discuss issues related to alleged voters' data theft, corruption charges against the government, the Speaker announced the House was adjourned sine die.

Debate on NK issue ends with one-line reply

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The debate over issues concerned to North Karnataka in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, the last day of the session, concluded with a one-sentence reply from the government.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy told the House that the government had taken note of opinions expressed by MLAs on issues related to development works, irrigation projects among others with regard to North Karnataka. The government would go through all of them and take measures for development of the region.

BJP members A.S. Patil, Siddu Savadi, Doddanagouda Patil, Basanagouda Patil, Veeranna Charantimath, and others had repeatedly urged the Speaker to allow them speak on the issues bothering North Karnataka. Mr. A.S. Patil, who began the debate on the issue on Wednesday, appealed to the government to complete the pending irrigation projects and improve the infrastructure facilities to utilise the power generated effectively in North Karnataka.

Leaders of the Congress staged a walkout as there was no proper reply to the debate on North Karnataka issues. Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said the government had not bothered to respond to serious issues concerning agrarian crisis in the State.

On direction form Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Madhuswamy gave a one-sentence reply and ended the debate.

CM vows to make honest efforts to take State to 'minimum revenue surplus' level in 2022-23 Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted the Appropriation Bill with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai promising the House that he would make honest efforts to take the State to a "minimum revenue surplus" level in the Budget to be presented by him for the coming financial year.

"I am confident that from the level of revenue deficit due to COVID-19 impact, I will be able to reach the level of minimum revenue surplus level when I present the State Budget for 2022-23," the Chief Minister, who piloted the Karnataka Apropriation Bill, said.

"We are trying to restrict our fiscal deficit to ₹62,000 crore for 2022-23 as of now going by estimates," he said.

The Supplementary Estimates aggregate to ₹8,001.13 crore. They include ₹1,806.18 crore of charged expenditure and voted expenditure of ₹6,194.95 crore. The net outgo from the Consolidate Fund is ₹8,001.13 crore. A sum of ₹1,134.72 crore is covered by Central assistance, ₹1,799.01 crore is met through adjustments. Hence, the net cash out go is ₹5,067.40 crore.

The Chief Minister said that efforts would be made to cover up the net outgo through improved revenue collections. He explained that the supplementary estimates amounted to 8.38% of the total Budget size.

A major sum from the Supplementary Estimates amounting to ₹1,396.27 crore was meant for the State Disaster Response Fund, he said.

He also said that his government was trying to abolish the system of deemed financial allocations under which the funds were being transferred to more important works.

Earlier, Congress member Krishna Byregowda expressed concern that the State's debt burden was increasing rapidly. The interest payment accounted for 14% of the total revenue receipts, he said.

The State's total loan burden that had increased by about one lakh crore rupees during the five year regime of the Congress from 2013 to 2018, and had further shot up by about three lakh crore rupees from 2018 to 2022, he said.

The total loan repayment, which presently stood at ₹43,575 crore now, was expected to touch the level of ₹75,000 crore to ₹80,000 crore in about two years from now, he said. He blamed the Centre for such a situation.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T S Viswanathan
Ex Dunlop India Ltd
Enangaa, Appa, Anna, Uncle, Mama, Thatha, Vicchu, Rajamani, Sir, Boss.
Dropped his body in a Bangalore Hospital at 11.51 pm on Dec 28, 2022
satvish@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr.J.L.Kantha Rao, and another contracted to purchase the schedule property from Mohammad Shakeel Akhtar, Shahid Aqubal, Rahul Baweja & Romit Baweja.
Any body having any claim or right, on the schedule property shall lodge their claim with the undersigned on or before 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the land and building immovable property bearing No.I [Old No.44] BBMP Katha No. 124/1/44, situated at Puttenahalli Main Road, J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru East to West : 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft. with Commercial building and bounded on :
East by : Puttenahalli Main Road.
West by : Property No.5
North by : Road and
South by : Property No.2
[K.T.DAKAPPA]
Advocate
At No.64/I, SM Plaza I Floor, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru- 560 004. Phone: 4090 1371

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that my client **1) Sri T.A. SENTHIL and 2) Smt. S. VIDYA** are negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein, from **(1) Sri Y. PAVAN KUMAR** S/o Y. Sreenivasulu Setty and **(2) Sri. AYYAPPA .Y,** S/o Sri Y. Sreenivasulu Setty, who claims to be the owners of the Schedule Property. Any person or persons having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever against the schedule property based on the documents pertaining to the said property or objections for the proposed development, may lodge their **OBJECTIONS** and **or CLAIMS** with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the **Residential property bearing Municipal No. New 14 (Old No.24) situated at Kumaraswamy Layout, 181 Division, (Ref. No.DA(W)181 KTR/139/16-17, adjacent to Revenue Layout Park Road, Bengaluru coming under the BBMP Ward No.55, Padmanabhanagar with PID No.55-718-14, measuring 48' on the Eastern side, 40' on the to Western side, 56' on the Northern side and 31' on the Southern side total extent 1914 Sq.Ft.,** and bounded on the : East by: BDA Property West by : Property bearing No.22 North by : Private Property South by: Road
Sd/-
B. RAJE GOWDA, Advocate
#13&14, "Sampoorna Chambers" 3rd Floor D-6, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004
Mobile No. 94486 06338 e-Mail : rajagowda@gmail.com

Emergency Landing Runway facility tested successfully

Sambasiva Rao M.
BAPATLA

Four combat jets – Sukhoi and Tejas jets and one AN-32 transport aircraft – on Thursday flew at a height of about 5 metres on the 4.1-km emergency landing runway (ELR) on the National Highway 16 at Pichukalagudipadu village in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh . However, the aircraft did not land on the highway.

As part of strengthening the strategic security of the country, the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted the trial run, which was successful. Initially, the IAF authorities had planned to fly the fighter jets at an altitude of around 100 metres, but while they were conducting the emergency drill, they tested the aircraft at a height of around five metres or less.

"Two Sukhoi Su-30 fighter aircraft, two indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas and another transport plane AN-32 flew on the newly developed ELR," Air Commodore V.M. Reddy of the Southern Air Command, said.

The trial flight began at 11 a.m. and ended by 11.40 a.m. First in the sequence of aircraft, the AN-32 flew over the runway at a height of about 5 metres, followed by a twin Su-30 and a couple of Tejas fighter jets.

Trial flight: An Indian Air Force transport plane flying over the Emergency Landing Facility on NH-16. T. VIJAYA KUMAR

During their first round of visit, both Su-30 and Tejas came as twins. After passing through the ELR in their first run, they peeled into two, separated themselves and again flew over the target.

Mr. Reddy said the Tejas and the transport plane came from the Sulur Air Force Station, near Coimbatore, while the LCAs flew in from the Thanjavur Air Force Station. The entire trial run was conducted by the Southern Air Command (SAC) with its headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram. This ELR facility falls under the area of responsibility of the SAC.

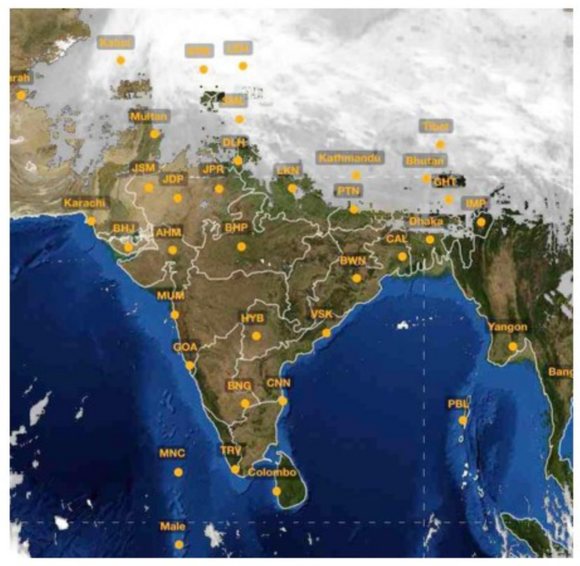
Mr. Reddy said the Bapatla ELR was going to be the first-of-its-kind emergency facility in the southern peninsula.

There were other two in operation – one each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The government had planned around 20 ELR facilities across the country, which would come up in course of time, he said. Two more would come up in Tamil Nadu.

Reacting to a question on similar facility being developed in Prakasam district, Mr. Reddy said those stretches had curves more than the acceptable limits. He said the aircraft needed at least 3 km length and 30 metres width of runway without a curve.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, north Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.8	14.6	Kozhikode	—	34.5	25.1
Ahmedabad	—	30.5	13.3	Kurnool	—	35.0	23.2
Aizawl	—	—	12.0	Lucknow	—	20.8	7.4
Allahabad	—	25.2	7.6	Madurai	—	32.2	21.6
Bengaluru	—	28.5	18.5	Mangaluru	—	34.8	24.1
Bhopal	—	28.9	9.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.6	18.8	Mysuru	—	31.0	19.4
Chandigarh	—	14.6	8.2	New Delhi	—	23.7	7.0
Chennai	—	32.2	23.3	Patna	—	20.8	8.8
Coimbatore	—	31.4	20.6	Port Blair	—	30.2	23.0
Dehradun	—	14.6	7.0	Puducherry	—	31.6	21.6
Gangtok	0.9	8.5	6.2	Pune	—	32.7	16.5
Goa	—	33.5	23.0	Raipur	—	29.4	14.2
Guwahati	—	22.9	11.6	Ranchi	—	24.4	10.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.1	5.0
Hyderabad	—	32.0	10.5	Shimla	—	11.5	5.3
Imphal	—	22.3	6.5	Srinagar	—	4.2	-3.2
Jaipur	—	25.4	10.3	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	32.3	22.8
Kochi	—	32.6	25.2	Tiruchi	—	31.3	23.0
Kohima	—	16.8	4.8	Vijayawada	—	32.4	21.2
Kolkata	—	24.6	13.2	Visakhapatnam	—	30.8	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	176	.72	...162	...139	
Bengaluru	.10	..39	.25	58	70	
Chennai	.24	..38	.39	81	73	
Delhi	.17	168	.99	...349	...325	
Hyderabad	...3	..39	.47	...136	...133	
Kolkata	.20	8	.23	...280	...172	
Lucknow	.22	..57	.98	...356	...286	
Mumbai	.78	..51	130	...352	...223	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.12	..37	.33	62	90	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 450 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Six pvt. varsities' Bills tabled, but process of consideration halted

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Six Bills seeking to allow setting up of as many private universities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday by Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

However, the Minister agreed to withdraw the Bills from the process of consideration as several members cutting across party affiliations maintained that there was a need for more time to have elaborate discussion on such Bills.

They appealed to the Minister not to hurry through. The members suggested that the government could promulgate an Ordinance regarding the Bills if in a hurry.

The proposed private universities are T. John university, Bengaluru; Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha University, Bengaluru; Sapthagiri University, Bengaluru; GM University, Davangere; Acharya University, Bengaluru; and Kishkinda University, Ballari.

In Council

Meanwhile, in the Legislative Council, Karnataka Special Investment Region Bill 2022, which seeks to establish and operate large size investment regions, was passed amid a walkout by the Congress.

NIA mounts surprise raids on PFI affiliates, leaders

The anti-terrorist unit conducted searches across seven districts in Kerala; at least 56 premises associated with second-rung leaders of the recently proscribed organisation were searched

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Plainclothes officers of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the country's prime anti-terrorist unit, fanned out across seven districts in Kerala early on Thursday to mount surprise raids on at least 56 premises associated with second-rung leaders of the recently proscribed Popular Front of India (PFI).

The pre-dawn raids primarily targeted suspected PFI operatives in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Wayanad. The State police provided perimeter security.

A file photo of the Kerala headquarters of the PFI in Kozhikode.

An NIA release said the searches singled out PFI office-bearers, cadres, members and affiliates. The agency said the PFI justified criminal force and encouraged impressionable youth to join terrorist organisations.

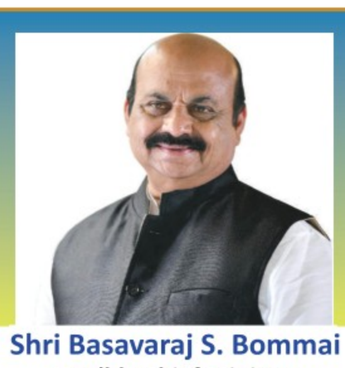
The outfit trained "vulnerable" youth to use knives, daggers, swords and other weapons to commit murderous and violent acts.

The NIA searched the premises of seven State executive members, seven zonal heads and 15 physical and martial art training instructors. The investigators recovered "sharp-edged weapons, incriminating material and digital devices".

The raids were aimed at preventing the PFI from reviving its activities under new guises. In a court filing last month, the NIA claimed it had uncovered a PFI plot to eliminate leaders of a rival outfit.

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

North Karnataka Progress at a Glance
Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharath Mission (G)

1st Saturday of every Month
"Shramadaan to Strive Towards Cleanliness".

Jal Jeevan Mission
"Mane Manege Gange"

- 18,00,000 Functional Household Tap Connections provided in rural areas at the cost of Rs. 2,426.91 Cr.
- 100% FHTCs provided to 375 Grama Panchayaths and 2,450 Villages.
- Safe Drinking water connections to about 42,000 Rural Schools and Anganavadi centers.
- 80 Multi Village Schemes target at the cost of Rs. 18,821 Cr.
  43 schemes approved and work in progress.
- 37 Water testing labs setup at a cost of Rs. 11.52 Cr.
  7 District level labs and 10 Taluk-level labs NABL accredited.
- "Parihara" Helpline for grievance redressal of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation issues.

Swachh Bharath Mission (G)
"Namma Nadige Swachhateya Kadege"

- 26,80,000 Individual Household Toilets constructed at the cost of Rs. 2,305.35 Cr. Community Sanitary Complex built in about 1,001 villages.
- Swachha Sankeerna (SWM) units built in 2,718 Grama Panchayaths at the cost of Rs.186.45 Cr are managed by GPLF.
- 2,300 Swachha Vahinis deployed for solid waste collection and SHG women trained for vehicle driving.
- Rs. 52.90 Cr released for Grey Water Management across 9,000 villages.
- Rs. 1.78 Cr released to construct 25 GobarDhan units.
- Rs.5.06 Cr released for 6 Material Recovery Facility.
- Rs. 3.59 Cr released to set up 17 Fecal Sludge Management Units.
- Karnataka ranked First position in 'Sujalam 2.0' and 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaigns.

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission
Clean India
A Step Towards Cleanliness
JALOTSAVA
MANE MANEGE GANGE
SWACHHA SANKEERNA
parihara
ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಕುಂದು ಕೊರತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ
94809 85555
Wear Mask
Maintain Social Distancing
Be Healthy
As enshrined in our Constitution, - to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

RECOGNITION: Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar receiving Karnataka Ratna, State's highest civilian award, given posthumously to actor Puneeth Rajkumar in Bengaluru.

FREE FLOW: The 4.5-km long Kumbalgod flyover, between Kengeri and Hejjala, opened on one side to ease the traffic moving towards Mysuru. K. MURALI KUMAR

FLOODED: The Outer Ring Road was inundated following breaches in lakes after heavy rains near Bellandur in Bengaluru. This resulted in massive traffic jam extending up to 3 km on both the sides. The ORR has offices of many multinational companies. K. MURALI KUMAR

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR: The national flag was hoisted at Idgah maidan, Chamarajpet, on the 75th anniversary of Independence in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Highs *and* Lows *of* 2022

The year 2022 will be remembered for the heavy rains that flooded parts of the city, exposing massive gaps in its infrastructure. It left the IT corridors marooned and roads pothole-ridden. The year also saw COVID-19 case numbers fluctuating – going up in the early part, coming down mid-year, and ending with some fears of a possible increase in infections again. The city also witnessed attempts to stir the communal cauldron with the Idgah Maidan issue in Chamarajpet.

However, the city saw some bright spots on the infrastructure front. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the long-awaited suburban rail project and inaugurated Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport. In the run-up to the Assembly and civic polls scheduled to be held in 2023, the State government installed a 108 feet tall statue of modern Bengaluru's founder Kempegowda, said to be an attempt to woo the electorally key Vokkaliga community.

BRIMFUL: After three decades, crest gates were opened to release water from Thippagondanahalli reservoir. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

CELESTIAL WONDER: The partial solar eclipse seen at Banashankari. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

FASTER, BETTER: Vande Bharat Express began running between Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

TOWERING HEIGHT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 108 feet tall bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda in Bengaluru. PTI

SWISH STATION: The centrally air-conditioned Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli. Covering 4,200 sq.m., it was built at a cost of over ₹300 crore. K. MURALI KUMAR

COLOURFUL FACADE: Tipu Sultan's summer palace illuminated with tricolour as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

HARROWING COMMUTE: The road in Uttarahalli, one of the many in Bengaluru that were riddled with potholes following incessant rain. K. MURALI KUMAR

WORLD CLASS: The glitzy Terminal 2 of International Airport. Built at a cost of around ₹ 5,000 crore, it is expected to handle around 5-6 crore passengers, from the current capacity of 2.5 crore annually. K. MURALI KUMAR

LONG AFTER: Teppotsava, decorated boat mantapa with the idol of Dodda Basavanna, floats on the Kempambudhi Kere lake, after a gap of 14 years. K. MURALI KUMAR

Here are five stories that could inspire you to take up a hobby or learn a skill this New Year

Take a pot shot

What do rifle shooting and yoga have in common?

The two seem worlds apart from each other because rifles are usually associated with violence and explosion and yoga with peace. But they aren't, says Divya Rolla, 41, who took up rifle shooting four months ago. As a yoga trainer at Cult Fit, she trains people in focus, breath, and stillness – three things that are essential in shooting as well.

"Post-COVID, I was looking around for something I could do after work. And, this rifle institue, which was just 10 minutes away from home caught my eye," she says.

Divya was not entirely new to rifle shooting. She had briefly done it during her college NCC days. But that was two decades ago. Without practice, she was going to feel like a novice. After a few classes, however, she felt like she never left shooting. Now, it has become an important part of her life. She attends the classes two hours a day, four days a week.

Working at a Cult Fit, she is well aware of how difficult it is to start a new fitness hobby. "Even I was not very sure if I would stick to shooting. I thought it would wear off. So far, it hasn't," she says.

"The trick is to pick something that excites you – something that you would do just because it gives you joy. Don't burden yourself with the expectation of being good at it. Take it one day at a time. And, don't shame yourself if you feel like dropping it."

It's never too late

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

Play ball

In July this year, Navin Balachandran, 46, came across a few articles about the increasing popularity of pickleball in the US with athletes such as LeBron James and Kim Clijsters taking up the sport. Many venture capitalists were investing in the game, which is a mishmash of tennis, table tennis, and badminton.

His curiosity piqued, Navin checked if the sport is played in India as well. That's when he stumbled on the Instagram page of the Tamil Nadu Pickleball Association. "Hey, looks like you have a pickleball setup in Chennai. Where do you play?" he pinged them. A few days later, Navin was at the DAV Boys School, one of the practice venues of the Chennai 'picklers'.

"I soon realised it's a community-based sport," he says. "The first day, I played with a man accompanied by his brother, his wife and his dad. It's a sport for the entire family." Within months of taking it up, Navin won the doubles gold medal at the Tamil Nadu State ranking tournament and made it to the singles and doubles quarter-finals at the Nationals in Indore.

Grow green

Jayachandran Palazhy grew up amidst greenery. As a boy, in his village in Thrissur, he used to water the paddy fields and ride back home on a bullock cart. He left the pastoral life to pursue arts in Chennai, then in London, and eventually in Bengaluru, where he founded the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts. Dance has been the primary focus of Jayachandran for most of his life. But whenever he travelled, the trees lining the roads reminded him of his boyhood conversations with Nature.

Constantly surrounded by concrete enclosures, he says, robs us of something intangible that we find in the midst of greenery. So, over the last year, the international choreographer has taken up organic farming on a three-acre land near Bengaluru.

"I feel there is a connection between art and sustainability," he says, "Art teaches you to celebrate Nature, to practice a simple lifestyle, to think about the next generation. We should all contribute to that."

Though Nature is an important part of his art practice, Jayachandran longed for a visceral experience.

"A lot of people are into organic farming. They own a piece of land and get fruits and vegetables from the farm. But to get happiness and pleasure along with the yields, they must get their hands dirty – feel the earth, the leaves, the water." In his 60s, he is, in a way, going back to his boyhood but also learning something new. "Scientists say dance and music help the brain make new neural connections. There is no time limit to learning something new. The moment you stop learning, you stop evolving."

Get on your feet

At this year's National Masters Athletics Championships, Latha Srinivasan, 62, won three silver medals – in 5K, 1500m, and 800m. At an age when most people retire from sports and athletics, she has just begun.

Until four years ago, her exposure to sports was limited to the occasional Olympics and Wimbledon-watching on TV.

"Then, in 2018, I saw an article in *The Hindu MetroPlus* regarding an upcoming marathon in Coimbatore. It kind of kindled an interest within me. So, I contacted the local runners group and joined them," she says.

Latha signed up for the 10K event at the Coimbatore Marathon, which was just over a month away. But running at a retirement age was not very easy. "I used to gasp after running just a few metres. I was sure that I wasn't going to continue. I felt signing up for the 10K event was a mistake." She asked her runners group coordinator if she should downgrade herself to 5K. But he told her, 'Just keep practising. There's still a month's time. The vibes on that day will carry you past the finish line.' It did. Latha, aided by the support of her brother and sister-in-law (both of them, runners), finished the 10K run. Running, she says, is like meditation. It helps her remain fit and healthy too. To the ones looking to start running, Latha's advice is: "Don't focus too much on the speed or distance. Consistency is more important. It applies to any new skill you want to master."

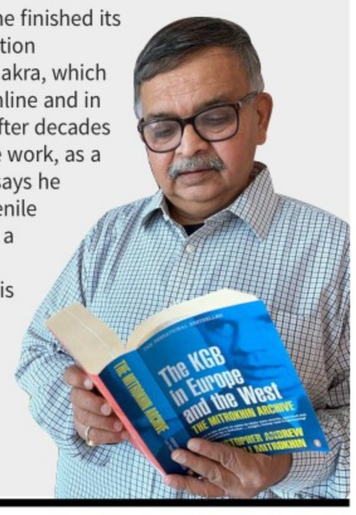
Write turn

There is a world of difference between real-life espionage and its pop-culture portrayal, according to Prabhakar Aloka, a former Intelligence officer. "While the latter involves 5G (glitz, glamour, gizmos, guns, and girls); the actual thing involves just 1G (grit)," he says.

Aloka knows this because he has served the Intelligence Bureau for over three decades. When he retired two years ago, he wanted to tell people what happens in the lives of real spies. He considered doing it via a lecture series or a podcast. But neither of those formats let him explore the psyche of a spy. "Spies are usually shown as action heroes who can jump off tall buildings, but they are also humans with emotions." The best way to convey this, he felt, was through stories.

Aloka knew what to write; he just had to learn how to write it. He was into Hindi literature in school and college and a fan of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's works. He started writing only towards the end of his career. He took two years to finish his spy thriller Operation Haygreeva (Penguin Random House), which was released in 2021.

This year, he finished its sequel, Operation Sudarshan Chakra, which is available online and in bookstores. After decades of Intelligence work, as a writer, Aloka says he feels "the juvenile excitement of a student anticipating his exam results" before the release of his books.



In the next five years, Hombale Films plans to invest ₹3,000 crore in the entertainment industry

Dreaming big Founders of Hombale Films, Vijay Kiragandur and Chaluve Gowda (below), a still from *KGF 2*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Soaring to greater heights

Nalme Nachiyar
nalme.nachiyar@thehindu.co.in

When Hombale Films got off to a shaky start in 2014 with *Ninnindale*, no one could have predicted that in less than eight years the production house would come to redefine the concept of pan-Indian cinema and change the fortunes of the Kannada Film Industry (KFI) delivering three pan-India hits (*KGF* films and *Kantara*).

The brainchild of Vijay Kiragandur and Chaluve Gowda, Hombale's mercurial rise reflects a commitment to taking local stories to a global level.

Kiragandur talks about their endeavour to marry creative spirt with commercial forces, diversifying into different kinds of content and their dream for building Hombale.

Question: *Each of Hombale's films have been bigger than the last. How do you explain this consistency?*
Answer: At Hombale Films, we want to make movies that are accepted by the wider audience and not just chase numbers. To strive for something different, we invest a lot of time in planning. For instance, with *KGF*, we spent three years only on the script while for *Kantara*, we spent about eight months.

Q: *What are the factors you consider while promoting a film?*
A: Kannada movies have had always held great potential to work outside of Karnataka but nobody had tapped into it. With *KGF 1*, once we knew we had a good movie in hand, we decided to go all out and release pan India. We spent more on the publicity and marketing for *KGF1* than on the making itself.

Q: *Hombale Films branched out to two more industries this year. What made you take that leap?*
A: We did not want to get restricted to the Kannada industry and our next pan-India release will be the Malayalam film *Dhoomam* starring Fahadh Faasil and Aparna Balamurali, directed by Pawan Kumar. We also have Keerthy Suresh-starrer *Raghu Thatha*. *Salaar*, however, will be the biggest 2023 release - bigger than any of our releases so far. We have five films in the pipeline for 2023.

Q: *What is your vision for Hombale?*
A: When audiences hear the name of Disney or Marvel, they rush to the screens. That's the dream we have for Hombale. We want to tell rooted stories about our culture while also contributing to the economy. Our five-year plan is to invest ₹3,000 crore in the entertainment industry. Every year, we want to release five movies out of which one will be an event movie like *KGF* or *Salaar*.

Coming apart at the seams

Gara, needle work exclusive to the Parsi community, is slowly vanishing

Stitch in time Zenobia Davar with one of her gara sari creations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Navya MS

Whether it is the riveting *aari* threadwork of Rajasthan or the stark-yet-striking work Nilgiri Toda wool work, the traditional craft of any region is much sought after. However, with the Parsi community unconfined to a specific geographic location, gara art, or their traditional pattern of embroidery is slowly vanishing. At the recently concluded Bengaluru chapter of the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce Winter Bazaar, the city saw a few fine examples of this art form.

Dating back hundreds of years, gara work is a combination of the forbidden knot, French knots and long- and short-stitches. These were worked onto dark-coloured fabrics using thread in shades of cream. The original patterns depicted flora and fauna, though with time and due to the Chinese influence, pagodas and dragons also began appearing in gara work.

"Every motif that appears on a gara is imbued with meaning, symbolising divinity or prosperity," says Zeshah Davar, an artisan from Delhi, adding, "Since there is an emotion and meaning attached to the design, it is one of the most sentimental gifts one can get or gift."

Though gara adorns saris and shawls, men sported them as detailing on their ethnic suits and head gear too.

According to Mumbai-based boutique owner Zenobia Davar, "No one buys a gara for the simple purpose of wearing it; it is an investment in the art form."

Bengaluru-based Sanaya Patell, still remembers being gifted her heirloom gara. "I was given my great grandmother's 200-year-old gara sari during my wedding; it has been passed on from her time and is still well preserved."

Since they were never meant to be mass produced, every piece of gara work had a story behind it. "Gara is time consuming and it takes months to complete a simple sari. Recent creations have depicted sporting activities such as football, river rafting, cycling and more, in a story format," says Zenobia.

STEPOUT

Musical interlude

Kamei is a singer-songwriter, who has been performing since 2018 and is known for her rendition of pop, blues, country and jazz. She collaborates with varied bands and plays the ukulele too.
Kamei will perform on December 30, 8pm at Foxtrot, Marathahalli. Entry is free. Call 9108136001/2.

Adieu to 2022

This 2022 New Year's Eve party will feature DJ Kevin, unlimited food and drinks. From quail biryani and Korean spiced pork belly and margaritas, to shrimps with chilli basil sauce, Chettinadu pulao and a range of artisanal pizzas, indulge your taste buds and treat your ears to some sensational music. are some of the dishes that will be served. The party is on December 31, at Fox in the field, Whitefield, 8pm onwards. Their a'la carte menu will be available on January 1.

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Entry by Ticket | Ample Parking | All Major Cards Accepted
16th Dec - 2nd Jan 2023, Daily : 11am - 9pm
St.Josephs School Grounds, (Opp. UB City / Kanteerava Stadium)

Credit challenges

Credit flow and all-round capital spending must stay supportive

The RBI's 'Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India', paints a picture of credit growth having rebounded smartly, with the consolidated balance sheets of Indian commercial banks showing double-digit expansion after a seven-year gap. While at first flush this would be reason for cheer, this growth came on the back of the pandemic-hit year, when economic activity including demand for loans was depressed. However, credit momentum seems to be sustaining in the current fiscal year too with loan growth logging a decade high in the first half. And in the fortnight to December 2, credit expanded 17.5% from a year earlier. Still, disappointingly, deposit growth lagged behind, increasing by only 9.9% in the period. With retail inflation and concerns about price stability eroding savers' real returns as well as confidence to save, banks have found themselves needing to redouble efforts to shore up deposits to help fund credit demand. Lenders would want to avoid finding themselves relatively short of lower-cost capital to lend, especially when the economy is facing the headwinds of a global slowdown.

With the quickening of credit growth, the RBI also urged banks to guard against loan slippages. Bank balance sheets have become healthier over the past few years thanks to the central bank's asset quality reviews, mandates for stressed assets recognition and write-offs by commercial banks, as well as loan recoveries under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The bank's caution is salutary as the sector cannot afford to take its eye off the bad-loans status, especially after gross non-performing assets (NPAs) – which impinge on banks' ability to lend – saw a decline from the "peak in 2017-18" to 5% in September 2022. Banks' due diligence on borrowers and solid credit appraisal will help keep NPAs under control even while credit growth helps fund capital expenditure (capex). The Chief Economic Adviser had noted this month that private capex had touched ₹3 lakh crore in the first half of the year and if the same pace were maintained, full-year figures would be the highest in the last few years. Worryingly, he had also hinted that government capex need not continue to maintain the pace so as to allow private players the space to borrow and invest. However, even given the constraints of fiscal discipline, the Government should keep the tempo up on capex as it may take a while for private capex growth to find consistency. With industrial production still on a bumpy ride, having contracted in two of the seven months, policymakers must ensure credit flow and all-round capital spending stay supportive.

Friendly neighbours

India must boost ties with Maldives without taking sides in its politics

The conviction of former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen by a criminal court in the Maldives just a year ahead of general elections could affect his plans to lead the PPM-PNC opposition alliance. He faces 11 years in prison and a $5 million fine after being found guilty of corruption and money laundering links to a company he was accused of taking kickbacks from, during his tenure as President (2013-2018). The Maldives Constitution disqualifies any candidate convicted of criminal charges and sentenced to a term of more than a year unless they are later acquitted or a three-year period has elapsed since their release. In a sense, history has now come full circle for Mr. Yameen, as he had pursued cases against his predecessor Mohamed Nasheed and ensured that he would step down in favour of his party colleague Ibu Solih ahead of the last election. The conviction was his second in three cases. Mr. Yameen has had a rough relationship with India during his presidential term after he declared an emergency in the island state. As opposition leader he has spearheaded the "India Out" campaign, and has been unrepentant despite the latest verdict, trying to link his incarceration to pressure from India.

Given the inimical relationship, as well as Mr. Yameen's past close links with China, there may be some relief in South Block over the possibility of Mr. Yameen's disqualification. However, the Government needs to tread carefully when it comes to the domestic politics roiling its close maritime neighbour. India's infrastructure aid, credit lines, loans and commissioning of various projects (Greater Male Connectivity Project, Hanimaadhoo airport, Hulhumale cricket stadium, Gulhifalhu port) have meant high visibility. In addition, close ties and high-level military exchanges since 2018 have raised speculation that India is eyeing a base. Even as the Solih government has been prompt in countering Mr. Yameen's allegations, condemning the "India Out" campaign, and arresting a senior opposition leader for threatening violence against the Indian High Commission, the protests have gained some traction in parts of the country. While Mr. Yameen may not be allowed to run in the next election, this might make space for even more radical elements in the opposition combine. New Delhi must keep a close watch on other parts of Maldivian politics, including the rift between India's closest friends there, President Solih and former President Nasheed, who is threatening to split the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party. Despite having obvious favourites in the polity, New Delhi must actively project the image of the friendly and helpful neighbour without explicitly seeking to sway next year's election in any direction.

Changing features of Muslim representation in India

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

The meaning of representation in any representative-democracy is necessarily a contested concept; a productive force which shapes and reshapes the structure of political competition. Given our historical context, the representation of Muslims has become even more of a lightning rod for present-day political divides, especially since the ascendance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the position of national dominance.

Much editorial ink has been spilled on the refusal of the BJP to provide even tokenistic political representation to the Muslim minority. But an interesting facet is the adaptation made by the non-BJP Opposition parties, over the last decade, on the political question of representation of Muslims. This adaptation was partly a response to the BJP-dominant system; but it was also a response to long-term structural changes in Indian politics.

To chart this evolution, we shall make use of three dimensions of political representation (descriptive representation, symbolic representation, and substantive representation), borrowing from Hanna F. Pitkin's seminal treatise, The Concept of Representation (1967). At its basics, descriptive representation means the degree to which the representatives resemble the people they claim to represent, such as the social/cultural identity of the representatives. Symbolic representation denotes the ways by which the representative "stands for" the represented – through speech, actions and symbolic gestures. And, substantive representation means the ways in which the representative serves the interest of the represented, such as by advancing the political agenda or policy preferences of the represented.

The example of Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, the accommodation of the significant Muslim minority (nearly a fifth of the State) had been done by the previous Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) regimes by providing them a mix of descriptive and symbolic representation. While the descriptive representation of Muslims (such as the proportion of Muslim MLAs and Ministers) in the Congress period of dominance often lagged behind its population share, the Congress also offered symbolic representation: "standing for" the protection of a package of 'Muslim issues'. These 'Muslim issues' (mostly cultural issues such as Urdu, Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), and later Babri Masjid) symbolised a compact between the Congress elite and a politicised religious leadership, skilfully constructed as a "stand-in" for the entire community.

Later, the SP tweaked the terms of the bargain and became the favoured party of Muslim voters, although one hastens to add that the so-called 'Muslim vote' continued to be split three-ways (between the SP, the Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress), with a single party rarely cornering more than half of all Muslim votes. The SP strategy had three components. One, there was an increase in rhetorical emphasis given to the role of "protecting" the package of Muslim issues, driving a contrast with the Congress which was hemmed in by the breach of its upper-caste vote bank from an ascendant BJP. Two, the role of "protector of minorities" was intensely personalised into the benevolent-strongman image of the party leader, played by Mulayam Singh Yadav in U.P. and Lalu Prasad Yadav in neighbouring Bihar. And three, while the Muslim legislators were supposed to play only a rubber-stamp role, a State-wide Muslim party face was constructed to periodically give vent to 'Muslim angst' and reinforce the protector role of the party leader. This role was played by leaders such Azam Khan of the SP in U.P. and Mohammed Ashraf Fatmi of the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar.

But the big change brought on by the BJP dominant period is that the kind of "symbolic representation" practised by the SP and the RJD has now ceased to be part of a viable strategy of accommodating Muslims. The three aforementioned components of symbolic representation have been hollowed out in practice. One, the SP and the RJD have been studiedly silent in their rhetorical response to the BJP's policies relating to cultural concerns of minorities (UCC, madrasas, AMU, Babri Masjid, etc). Two, Akhilesh Yadav and Tejaswi Yadav have self-consciously shirked away from the role of "protector" of minorities. And three, Akhilesh Yadav has adopted a markedly indifferent attitude towards the systematic destruction of the political career of Azam Khan by the ruling BJP, even as Tejaswi Yadav has pushed out Ashraf Fatmi from the RJD. The pitch that parties such as SP and RJD (as well as the Trinamool Congress) are now offering to Muslim voters is centred on a very narrow conception of security and a vague promise of "development for everyone", crucially supplemented with the narrative that they are the only alternative to the BJP. It has worked so far. it has worked so far. All the three parties cornered upwards of three-quarters of the Muslim vote (an unprecedented figure), according to surveys, in their last Assembly elections, respectively. But the long-term viability of this strategy also remains uncertain.

In Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, a shared element has been the centrality given to substantive representation in their (otherwise substantially different) pathways of Muslim accommodation. Even as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) allied with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in an earlier period of expansion, outbidding the Congress in symbolic terms, they quickly expanded their own political constituency among Muslims and consequently marginalised the IUML. They did so by, partly, appealing to the shared Tamil heritage and the participation of Muslims in the Dravidian movement, and, partly, by accommodating Muslims in the backward paradigm. This involved an early inclusion of Dalit Muslims and Christians in the existing backward reservations, as well as the later extension of a separate reservation block towards Muslims. The poorer Muslims left out of the welfare net, particularly in southern Tamil Nadu, were taken up by the paternalistic pro-poor populism of the All India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazahgam (AIADMK). The incidence of poverty among Muslims in rural Tamil Nadu, reduced from 37% in 1993 to 1% in 2011 (Kalaiyarasan).

However, the resurgence of parties such as the IUML and Manithaneya Makkal Katchi in the DMK coalition provides another complicating subplot. In the last election, the DMK-Congress gave these (Muslim communitarian) parties five tickets, to some extent as symbolic point-scoring over the AIADMK, which was allied to the BJP. The DMK coalition did garner 69% of Muslim voters (compared to 24% for the AIADMK), a significant increase in the gap over previous elections. But this partial outsourcing of the task of mobilising Muslims – stemming to some extent from a long-standing under-representation of Muslims in party organisation – remains a risky political manoeuvre.

And Kerala

In Kerala, the Left parties made significant gains among Muslim voters (from 35% to 39% of Muslim votes) on the back of pro-poor welfare schemes. Left Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan makes direct populist appeals to all communities including Muslims (signalling such as personally taking over the Minority Welfare Department), even as his party attacks the Congress-IUML coalition for encouraging minority communalism. But the overarching feature of Kerala's minority accommodation remains tethered to the theme of greater substantive representation.

It remains an open question whether the secular parties of North India can integrate the productive elements of the more robust southern model, promising "substantive representation" to Muslims while fending off the BJP's 'attacks' of "minority appeasement".

It remains to be seen whether the secular political parties of North India are able to use elements of the more robust south Indian model, promising 'substantive representation' while warding off allegations of 'appeasement'

Leveraging voice technology to combat cyber-fraud

K. Jayanth Murali

is Director General of Police, Idol Wing CID, Tamil Nadu

Bank and cyber frauds in India are on the rise. According to data by the Reserve Bank of India, frauds have cost the country an estimated ₹100 crore a day over the last seven years. The frauds reported in 2021-22 were 23.69% higher than in the previous year (9,103 cases reported compared to 7,359 in 2020-21), although there was a decline in the amount involved. The main reasons for the rise in fraud include greater use of digital payments, telephone banking, and online banking services. Growing fraud also means rising losses for financial institutions and increasing cases for law enforcement to solve.

An emerging technology

One way to reduce losses is by adopting Voice Technology (VT), which encompasses voice biometrics or voice/speech recognition technology. The global adoption of smartphones has led to a dramatic increase in biometrics for security. However, these methods are cumbersome, not entirely secure, and vulnerable to deep fakes. With banks and establishments looking for ways to reduce fraud and identity theft risks, one of the best ways to do this is through the use of voice biometrics.

An emerging technology, it uses the unique characteristics of a person's voice as identification. The technology creates a digital voiceprint and compares it to a caller's voice. Voice authentication can significantly improve security over knowledge-based authentication methods, which fraudsters have exploited to scam people. Compared to other biometrics, voice use is the cheapest technology, and does not require a reader or special device. It is also non-invasive, portable and affords remote identification. Although banks have traditionally relied on the use of passwords, passwords are the weakest link in security (81% of hacking-related breaches involve weak passwords). Unlike a password, a customer's voice is impossible to spoof or copy, and is far more challenging to hack. VT verifies a caller swiftly in seconds by analysing the caller's voice and flags suspicious calls. VT allows privacy because it does not require users to reveal personal information.

Voice biometrics can help financial institutions to ensure higher levels of protection for customers and employees. In February 2019, HSBC became the first bank to take the revolutionary leap in introducing voice recognition for mobile banking customers – telephone banking fraud cases fell by over 50%. The voice biometrics industry is growing exponentially now. Experts expect the market to reach a market size of $3.9 billion by 2026, with a compound annual growth rate of 22.8%.

Growing applications

VT is an essential tool for forensics and law enforcement. By adopting VT, police in India can stand to gain tremendously, especially with the recent introduction of 5G. The police can leverage voice to improve investigation efficiency, identify criminals, track criminals, and better respond to and prevent crimes.

Not surprisingly, voice is finding use from criminal background checks to airport security. Face recognition technology has a high error rate and works best when the person is looking directly at the camera. Voice has a much lower error rate, and requires no eye contact. Besides, in the context of fraud, the Government needs to develop a mechanism for proper coordination between financial institutions and the police to investigate and prosecute fraudsters, as a fraud deterrent, and to maintain an extensive database of such criminals. VT has the advantage of improving user experience, reducing call handle times and call centre costs, besides ensuring high-accuracy authentication in seconds. It also has the ability to resist playback attacks. The technology is sensitive enough to detect if someone is impersonating the user or playing a recording. It can identify even if the user has a cold or a sore throat. On the downside, the technology may not be 100% foolproof, may give false positives, and has an accuracy between 90% and 99%. But some recent systems which come with voice analytics of gender and age identification, claim 100% verification accuracy.

Voice could be an excellent tool for the Government to disburse money for various schemes and verify the proof of life of pensioners from their homes.

Voice biometrics tech is making waves in the world of fraud protection by providing an extra layer of protection for data. Although the technology is not yet perfect, the potential benefits are significant. Once it is in place, user establishments can reap the benefits from a substantial reduction in fraud, making the technology an essential feature in the security toolkit of the future.

The views expressed are personal

With rising cyber frauds in India, voice biometrics technology can help financial institutions provide higher levels of protection for customers and data

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 alert

The policy of China now, to relax the restrictions imposed on its citizens, will no doubt lead to a spike in cases of the virus ('World' page, "China's pivot in COVID plan sparks jitters worldwide", December 29). Travel from and to China needs to be under strict regulations and control.

In India, governments, at the Centre and States, have to strictly enforce COVID-19 appropriate measures to avoid lockdowns and other harsh measures. As the economy is reviving, it is very essential to raise awareness among the public to scrupulously adhere to the appropriate actions, especially in public gatherings.

V.S.K. Pillai,
Vazhappally, Kottayam, Kerala

With China admitting that there is a COVID-19 surge, we are back to square one. Even more worrying is the plans of its citizens to travel abroad — with a vengeance. We cannot afford a devastating repetition of what happened during the opening days of the pandemic.

We have had enough disease and misery already.

S. Kamat,
Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

Beijing's new stance

The recent softening of (diplomatic) stance by China is surprising ("Ready to work with India for steady growth of ties: China" December 26). This seems to be more of a tactical manoeuvre than a strategic one, to buy time for its long-term objectives and try to induce fissures in a coalition that seems to be emerging in the Indo-Pacific to counter China. Years ago, the U.S. was made to believe in China's peaceful rise. This is a charm offensive to be wary of.

Hemant Goyal,
Safidon, Jind, Haryana

It remains to be seen whether China is able to maintain cordial and sincere relations with not only India but also all other neighbouring countries in a transparent manner.

Kondapi Raghubabu,
Ongole, Andhra Pradesh

Dalit rights

It is a shame that even 75 years after Independence, Dalits, in some areas, are still not permitted to enter temples. Have we forgotten the relentless and unremitting efforts undertaken by the Mahatma and B.R. Ambedkar to try and ensure the rights of Dalits?

In this instance, in Tamil Nadu, though the temple has been sealed, the question that nags me is how unconcerned we still are about Dalit rights.

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In an Editorial page article, "India must build awareness on population control" (December 29, 2022), the references to Total Fertility Rate (TFR) were as a percentage. TFR is expressed as a number. The numbers in the article are correct and the percentage sign should have been dropped.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Should India review its position on the Taliban?

Amar Sinha

is former Ambassador to Afghanistan and former member of the National Security Advisory Board

Tara Kartha

is a security affairs analyst and was previously at the National Security Council Secretariat

PARLEY

By issuing decrees banning girls/women from school, gyms and public parks, and from working at NGOs, the Taliban regime controlling Afghanistan seems to have made it clear that it does not intend to keep the promises it made of protecting women's rights. It also seems to be reneging on its other assurances, such as ensuring an inclusive government, the safety of minorities, and disallowing terror groups to operate from Afghanistan. Should India, which changed its traditional stand against the Taliban by holding talks with the group and setting up a mission in Kabul this year, review its position? In a conversation moderated by **Suhasini Haidar**, Amar Sinha and Tara Kartha discuss India's policy choices. Edited excerpts:

How do you perceive India's policy towards the Taliban today?

Tara Kartha: India's policy is based on a hard dose of realism, an understanding that you don't get to choose what government is there in other countries; you deal with whoever is there. That's always been, and should be, our policy. After all, the Taliban are Afghan and India has been saying we want an 'Afghan-led' government. If we are committed, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, to the people of Afghanistan, and if we want to make a difference to the people of Afghanistan, we have to work to some extent through the Taliban. Remember, neither is it business as usual with the Taliban nor do we recognise them. We are just working through a technical mission in Kabul to channel aid. If we want to help the people, there is no other way. That is what all the other countries are doing.

Amar Sinha: India's policies over the last 20 years were based on supporting the Afghan people and the democratic government, and trying to build Afghanistan as a nation state. However, what we are doing today is about pragmatism driven by a fear of missing out, as if the Taliban is the only option there. In the process, we have ditched not only our friends, but even Afghanistan as a nation. Is this the type of nation we want in our neighbourhood, which is radicalised and driven by ideology and is some sort of a 'Mullahcracy'? I believe supporting this regime in any way will sow the seeds for further destabilisation and continuation of terror. And as a result, many of the policies that we worked on for years have come to naught.

Given the Taliban's decrees on women, should the world curtail its engagement with the regime in Kabul? Or is that unrealistic?

A Taliban fighter stands guard as a woman walks past in Kabul. AP

TK: That's a good question. It's a hard choice, because I think the Taliban are using this as a bargaining tool to get what they want from the international community. If you take women out of NGOs, and NGOs shut down, it will be disastrous for the people. Let's see whether these decrees are implemented strictly, as it varies from region to region and commander to commander. We can hope that wherever we have a little space, we can extend some help.

AS: Of course, everybody is acting in the name of the people of Afghanistan. But it is the people of Afghanistan who are suffering the most under the Taliban, their repression and their denial of basic, fundamental rights. And what the Taliban are telling the world is 'take it or leave us the way we are, we will govern or we have these 30 million people captive under the barrel of a gun'. Just delivering food aid, wheat or medicine is a way of helping, but it doesn't solve the problem of Afghanistan.

After the attacks by the Taliban, especially the Haqqanis, on Indian embassies, where Indian officers and diplomats were killed, can the government trust the Taliban on terrorism?

AS: If there is any country which has any influence on the Taliban, it is Pakistan. It has the largest influence on the Haqqanis. Now, if Pakistan has not been able to get the Taliban to stop terror groups coming into Pakistan or hand over TTP (Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan) fighters, what is the chance that others can trust them [the Taliban]? For the last 20 years, Taliban fighters were enmeshed with other groups including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. For us to expect that they will ditch them just because they have goodwill towards India would be fooling ourselves. That is why I hold that our principled stand on terrorism gets diluted, because you cannot argue only against the nations sponsoring terror [Pakistan], but be willing to engage with the

> We don't have to review our presence; the technical mission should stay there. But it has to be empowered, so that it has the ability to help Afghans. And we have to review our policy on Afghan visas.
> **AMAR SINHA**

instruments of terror [the Taliban and the Haqqanis].

TK: As of now, there is no question of trust. We're just talking to sections of the Taliban, who as a group have never been anti-India. They want our money, they want to deliver governance to their people, they have to deliver, especially to their own cadres... So, you have to work with what there is, and hope that in time this may change. Meanwhile, you have at least one toe on the ground to see what's going on.

The fact is, you can't trust anyone, not even your best allies. And it should be noted that despite all the support Pakistan gave the Taliban, they still have the TTP there. This is how terrorist groups operate. They can turn around 180 degrees at any point. So, if you don't want another hijacking, like the IC-814 incident, and you want some entities there whom you can rely on, you have to have some presence on the ground. There's no other way.

Should India restart talks with Pakistan?

AS: That should be the next logical step. This sort of an ideological government in Kabul is going to be nobody's friend. We have already suffered because of radicalisation within the Pakistani military and the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence). We need to cooperate and help Pakistan meet this challenge of radicalisation within its society, because in the long term, it [radicalisation] is against our interest. How do we achieve it? I don't know. Temperatures are so high that I don't see a conversation, at least a public conversation, taking place with Pakistan.

TK: I wouldn't link talking to the Taliban with talks with Pakistan. Let's be clear: the radicalisation is a two-way street – the Taliban ministers who banned women's education were brainwashed in Pakistan. There is a continuing ideological link between these two, and our job is to make sure that that link is undermined by connecting to a more moderate Taliban.

At the same time, should India engage politically or militarily with the non-Taliban opposition, including Ahmad Massoud Jr and the National Resistance Front, as it once supported Ahmad Shah Massoud and the Northern Alliance?

AS: My categorical answer would be yes to political support. Because if our stated policy is that we are willing to engage with the entire spectrum of Afghan people, and this was the argument we used when there was an outreach to the Taliban, I don't see any reason why we have to forsake the others. Why can't Afghans from outside come to India and we could facilitate a dialogue among them? So, while we can try and make new friends [the Taliban], we shouldn't forget our old friends [the democratic regime] like this. Unfortunately, we see the issue purely from a security perspective. I strongly believe that diplomacy has to come back. We should have a technical mission there, but one which is empowered to help Afghans seeking education or healthcare, which gives visas to them, etc.

TK: I agree that we must get our visa policy right and allow Afghan students and others, including those with serious medical conditions. In terms of engaging with the opposition, we can facilitate them in international forums. But if India wants to be effective inside Afghanistan, we cannot have a lot of anti-Taliban opposition leaders sitting here. So, I would say facilitate the opposition without being overt about it.

Given all this, what changes, if any, in policy regarding the Taliban should the Indian government make?

TK: We must be practical. If there is any way to help Afghans both inside and outside the country, we should do it. But nothing which causes more bloodshed for the Afghans. Our policy now should be to restart projects, build schools, development. That will earn us goodwill and that's what diplomacy is about.

AS: Ultimately, our policy must look at what is a long-term solution for Afghanistan. The Taliban regime is just a phase. Much depends on what sort of terror groups build up there and whether terror attacks emanate from there. We don't have to review our presence; the technical mission should stay there. But it has to be empowered, so that it has the ability to help Afghans. And we have to review our policy on Afghan visas. We also have to be conscious of the fact that some key supporters of the Taliban have faced attacks in Kabul (China, Russia, Pakistan) from groups inimical to the Taliban.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

A year of many twists, and a valuable reminder

The people's uprising in Sri Lanka offered rare hope and idealism that years of reporting can dilute for a journalist

Meera Srinivasan

Colombo's seafront is lit up. Fairy lights, reindeer, and Christmas trees dot the stretch that leads to the Presidential Secretariat, the colonial-era building that served as the Parliament until the early 1980s. On the steps before its 14 giant pillars, a choir sings popular carols – an initiative of the military and the tourism board – against multi-coloured beams projected on the brown-stone facade. It is festive and cheerful, alright – that too coming at the end of what has been a particularly bleak year for Sri Lanka.

The adjacent plot of land, once a designated demonstration site for public protests and that became a tent city of resistance this year, has its share of Christmas cheer. A bright display of lights screams 'Visit Sri Lanka', not far from where a 'Gota Go Gama' name board stood some months ago. Journalists who visited the island to cover its worst economic crisis since Independence, as well as those of us stationed here, spent much time capturing the sounds and sights on the same stretch. It was here that scores of angry citizens converged beginning April, mounting what proved to be the biggest show of public fury in the country's history. Giving their rage creative expression, they lit up the same Secretariat with the slogan "Go home Gota", while chanting in chorus for "system change".

Badly hit by the downturn, citizens were grappling with acute shortages of essentials, spending days in long queues and, in many instances, starving. As part of its coping mechanism, the Sri Lankan government opted for a pre-emptive debt default, streamlined its imports, floated the rupee, hiked interest rates, and struck a deal with the International Monetary Fund for a potential loan. India pitched in with significant support, totalling nearly $4 billion, that helped restore critical supplies. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka witnessed a change at the helm in extraordinary circumstances. The all-powerful President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted, and Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had lost his parliamentary seat in the last election, was suddenly in the president's seat. Each of these developments was a big news story. It was as if Sri Lanka had lived years in those months.

As reporters, we track news – good, bad, or dangerous. We jump from one story to another, dancing to the tune of current affairs. But occasionally, there are developments that unfold dramatically and dominate headlines for a while.

The 'Janatha Aragalaya' (people's struggle) in Sri Lanka was one such story, spanning months. It had some dramatic twists, before the ruling Rajapaksa clan was dislodged from office in a staggering outcome. It defied easy characterisation and pushed us harder to listen. It challenged political soothsayers and kept lazy commentators on their toes. It drew sceptics, softened cynics, and rattled the indifferent. Everyone in Sri Lanka had a view on the Aragalaya, ranging from ready sympathy to outright dismissal. But few in the island were untouched by the street protests of unseen magnitude.

Covering the many facets and stages of the predominantly peaceful agitations proved an unusual reporting assignment, not just owing to their scale and character. Despite its limitations and internal contradictions, the people's uprising offered rare hope and idealism that years of reporting can dilute. When you hear ordinary citizens articulate their desire for a better future and country, the message resonates across borders and contexts. At one level, Sri Lankans were resisting leaders who they held responsible for their economic distress. At another, a mass uprising showed that no leader is invincible, and no might is bigger than people's power. Not a new or novel message when you turn the pages of history, but certainly a valuable reminder for a reporter.

meera.srinivasan@thehindu.co.in

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Deep inside forests, pockets of modernity in a world of tradition

Women of the Bonda tribe in their village in Odisha's Malkangiri district. The Bonda tribal people traditionally used only beads and a strip of cloth to cover their body. Over time, modern attire has seeped into these areas. Here, two Bonda tribal women wear nightgowns with their traditional beads, while a third is seen in traditional attire. K.R. Deepak

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 30, 1972

PM lays foundation for first tube railway

Calcutta, Dec. 29: A new chapter was carved in the history of the Indian Railways, when the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, laid the foundation stone of the Rs. 140-crore 16.5 km long Dum Dum-Tollygunge tube railway, first such venture in India, in the Calcutta maidan to-day. Wishing all the success for this project, Mrs. Gandhi said that this tube railway would not only usher in a new era, a new life "in this great city but also for the whole of West Bengal." The Prime Minister said that Calcutta which had been undergoing the ordeal of traffic congestion, over-crowding in public transport system, would be benefited by the completion of this project. She said the problem did not afflict Calcutta alone. All the big cities in the world had their peculiar problems. But there is no problem which cannot be solved, she added. Paying tributes to the "glorious" past of Calcutta and its people for being the 'pioneer' in many spheres of the country's advancement, Mrs. Gandhi urged them to bear with patience the marginal troubles that might crop up when work on the underground railway was started.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 30, 1922

Nauru mandate

London, Dec. 28: Recent criticism of the Australian administration of Naura island in the League of Nations' commission is recalled by a Reuter cable from Melbourne, which says that all the chiefs of Nauru have signed a memorandum stating that they are quite satisfied with the present administration which provides for greater freedom than under the German rule. They declare they are grateful to the League for placing them under the protection of the great empire.

From Page One

RVM to help migrants vote outside States: EC

"The voter turnout in General Elections of 2019 was 67.4% and the Election Commission is concerned about the issue of over 30 crore electors not exercising their franchise and also differential voter turnout in various States/Union Territories," the commission added in the statement.

The EC noted there were multifarious reasons for a voter not opting to register in a new place of residence, thus missing out on exercising the right to vote. The inability to vote due to internal migration is one of the prominent reasons to be addressed to improve voter turnout and ensure participative elections. Out-migration due to the need to work, marriage, and education is predominant among the rural population in overall domestic migration. Approximately 85% of the internal migration is within the States.

It is expecting comments on changes required in legislation, administrative procedures and voting method. Sources in the commission told *The Hindu* that the idea was to implement voter portability as a pilot project in the Assembly elections in nine States in 2023. If the pilot is successful, then voter portability can be fully implemented in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Concept note

The EC said it had circulated among the political parties a concept note highlighting the challenges of defining domestic migrants, implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, ensuring secrecy of voting, facility of polling agents for identification of voters, process and method of remote voting and counting of votes and other issues.

Among the laws and rules that would need amendment to implement remote voting are the Representation of the Peoples Act of 1950 and 1951, the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Migrant voters

The definition of migrant voter will also need to be reworked with respect to retaining registration at the original place in the context of the legal construct of "ordinary residence" and "temporary absence". Also, the territorial constituency concept of remote voting and defining remoteness itself, that is an outside constituency, outside district or outside State will need to be dealt with.

The administrative challenges include enumerating remote voters' self-declaration, ensuring secrecy of voting at remote locations, provision of polling agents at remote voting booths, and ensuring identification of voters to avoid impersonation. Other areas to work on would include the appointment of polling personnel for remote polling stations and supervision thereof, the number of polling booths to be set up and their locations, and implementation of the Model Code of Conduct in remote locations. Some of the technological challenges will be the method of remote voting, the familiarity of the voters with the multi-constituency RVM and counting of votes.

The EC said it was now ready to pilot an RVM with a public sector undertaking. This modified form of EVM can handle up to 72 multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth. "The initiative, if implemented, can lead to a social transformation for the migrants and connect with their roots as many times they are reluctant to get themselves enrolled at their place of work for various reasons such as frequently changing residences, not enough social and emotional connect with the issues of an area of migration, and unwillingness to get their name deleted in the electoral roll of their home/native constituencies as they have permanent residence/property," the EC said.

Probe on pharma firm over 'killer' cough syrup

"Uzbek authorities have not formally contacted us on the case, but our embassy has reached out to the government and is seeking further details of their investigation. We understand legal action has been initiated against some individuals, including the local representative of the Indian company, and we are offering all consular assistance in that case," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. "I am hesitant to term these as similar incidents. There are proper mechanisms to find out what happened. Each incident would be different. In terms of the previous case in Gambia, our drug regulatory authorities shared details with the World Health Organisation (WHO)."

The Indian pharmaceuticals industry has been a reliable supplier of drugs to countries across the world and every such incident would be taken "very seriously", though in this particular case more enquiries were needed, he added.

Contaminated with ethylene glycol

The deceased children in Uzbekistan had reportedly consumed "excessive amounts" of the cough syrup, which contained ethylene glycol, a substance that ought not to be present in it. This comes days after a parliamentary panel in The Gambia found "unacceptable levels" of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol in cough syrup made by Haryana-based Maiden Pharma. There, the cough syrup has been linked to instances of acute kidney injury that is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least 63 children.

Following WHO's warning on October 5, linking the four syrups to the deaths in The Gambia, Maiden Pharma's export license has been suspended. However, India has said that the WHO has drawn a "premature link" between the deaths of the children and the India-made cough syrups. *(with inputs from PTI)*

Need patriotic citizens in border villages for national security: Shah

Union Home Minister asks border-guarding forces to strengthen Vibrant Village Programme to make frontier villages self-reliant; calls for ensuring implementation of welfare programmes in such villages to encourage local people to stay back

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that borders could be permanently secured only when border villages were populated by patriotic citizens who had concern for the country, asking the border-guarding forces to use the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for the same.

Mr. Shah said boots on the ground and fencing were necessary, but borders could be truly secured when "we create villages with people who have concern for the country".

Speaking at an event to launch the Prahari app for the Border Security Force (BSF), he said the border-guarding forces should strengthen the VVP on the ground to achieve the objective of securing the borders. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the programme in her Union Budget speech on February 1 this year.

Assessing situation: Union Home Minister Amit Shah listening to BSF Director-General Pankaj Kumar Singh during a conference on Union Territories in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

In the works

Mr. Shah said the scheme was still in the works, but it should be used by all border-guarding forces to encourage tourism in border villages, to make them self-reliant and vibrant.

The Budget provisions of the scheme has been sent to the Expenditure Finance Committee for its approval and will be presented before the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approval.

The Minister told senior BSF officers that it was necessary to fully implement all the welfare programmes run by the Government of India and State governments in the border districts with the help of the District Collectors.

"If we equip those people who are leaving the border villages with the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana, then they get a reason to stay in the village. If they are provided with gas, electricity and drinking water, they will feel someone is taking care of them and they will stay back," Mr. Shah said.

'Drones countered'

Mr. Shah said in the past six months, the BSF had shot down 22 drones/unmanned aerial vehicles along the Pakistan border.

He said 26,000 kg of narcotics and 2,500 pieces of arms and ammunition were recovered by the BSF in the past three years. The BSF is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.

"We have succeeded to a large extent in countering drones from across the border. There are two aspects – to observe, jam and shoot them down and second is to keep a watch through radars. We have achieved 100% success in the first category," Mr. Shah said.

He said that fencing could not be done at some places due to difficult topography. However, construction of 140 km of fencing and 400 km of roads had been completed in difficult places, along with construction of 120 border outposts.

Ex-ICICI chief, husband and Videocon CEO remanded

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A special court in Mumbai on Thursday remanded Chanda Kochhar, former managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank, her husband Deepak Kochhar, and Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot in judicial custody in the ICICI Bank fraud case.

The couple was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on December 23 and Mr. Dhoot was arrested on December 26. Special CBI judge A.A. Sayed sent them to judicial custody till January 10.

The CBI has alleged that ICICI Bank under the leadership of Ms. Kochhar had sanctioned credit of ₹3,250 crore to companies owned by the Videocon Group in direct violation of the Banking Regulation Act, guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India and the credit policies of banks.

Indian officials meet eight ex-Navy men held in Qatar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday received consular access to eight Indians who have been in the custody of Qatari authorities for around three months, said the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi.

The eight former Indian Navy officials were arrested in Qatar on charges that have not been made public so far. In all, Qatar has thrice provided diplomatic access to the Indians.

"The objective of today's meeting was to talk to them and get a sense of their well-being and figure out what further assistance they require. We will continue to monitor this," said Mr. Bagchi, adding, "this is an important case for us".

According to earlier reports, the Indian nationals were employed with the Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private organisation. It appears that the Government of Qatar has not pressed charges against the arrested Indians so far.

Akhilesh seeks Assembly session to discuss OBC quota in urban bodies

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to convene a special session of the Assembly to discuss the issue of Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation in urban local bodies after the Allahabad High Court's decision on December 27 to quash OBC reservation.

"If the U.P. government's conscience is clear, it must hold a special session of the State legislature, so that they can convey their views and we will put forth our views on the OBC reservation issue," Mr. Yadav said at a press conference in which he attacked the ruling BJP for being "anti-OBC" and "anti-Dalit".

"The BJP was always against Dalits and the backward classes. Today, they have taken the reservation of backward classes, tomorrow they will take away the rights of Dalits," the former U.P. Chief Minister alleged.

Pre-poll fight: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav addresses a press conference in Lucknow on Thursday. PTI

The Allahabad HC order on Tuesday directing the State government to notify urban local body polls at the earliest, without any reservation for OBCs, has raised the political temperature in the State, with the Opposition trying to project the ruling regime as being against OBCs.

Commission to study

Amid pressure from different quarters, the State government appointed a five-member commission to look into the issue of reservation for OBCs in urban bodies, and appealed against the High Court's order in the Supreme Court.

The U.P. government has said that backward class reservation will be decided for municipal polls on the basis of the report of the commission, which will carry out the 'triple test formula' for reservation for OBCs in urban local bodies.

Meanwhile, the panel's chairperson, retired Justice Ram Avtar Singh, told mediapersons that it will take six months to prepare the draft report following the 'triple test formula' prescribed by the top court.

U.P. moves SC against order to hold urban local polls without OBC reservation

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A 2010 SC verdict says reservation rule cannot be 'applied mechanically' to such elections

The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday moved the Supreme Court against an Allahabad High Court direction to hold local body elections in the State without reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

The case raises the fundamental question whether quota for political representation in urban self-government bodies can be equated with reservation in higher education and public employment for socially and economically backward classes.

The State government argues that there is no flaw or illegality in providing reservation to the very same 79 Backward Class communities listed in the U.P. State Public Services (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Act, 1994 in respect of seats and offices of chairpersons of local bodies. The 1994 Reservation Act had, however, identified these Backward Classes to provide them quota to access higher education and public employment and not for the purpose of political representation.

Earlier judgments

But the State's appeal against the High Court order would meet a formidable opponent in the form of a 2010 Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in *K. Krishnamurthy versus Union of India*, which had clearly held that the "nature and purpose of reservation in relation to local bodies is considerably different from that in relation to higher education and public employment".

"The reservation benefits contemplated by Articles 15(4) and 16(4) [reservation in higher education, public employment] cannot be mechanically applied in the context of reservation enabled by Articles 243-D and 243-T [reservation of seats in panchayats, municipalities]. Articles 243-D and 243-T form a distinct and independent constitutional basis for reservation in local self-government institutions, the nature and purpose of which is different from the reservation policies designed to improve access to higher education and public employment, as contemplated under Articles 15(4) and 16 (4) respectively," the Bench had held.

The court had explained that social and economic backwardness cannot be the sole criterion for identifying the Backward Classes inadequately represented politically.

A further obstacle for the State would be a three-judge Bench judgment of the top court in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs State of Maharashtra*, which had devised the triple-test criterion to collect contemporaneous rigorous empirical investigation into the patterns of backwardness that act as barriers to political participation. The court has also made it clear in *Suresh Mahajan versus State of Madhya Pradesh* that no reservation for backward classes can be provided until the triple-test conditions are completed.

CBSE Class 10 exams from Feb. 15, Class 12 from 16th

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Board exams for Class 10 and 12 students will revert to the pre-COVID pattern and will be conducted in one instalment starting February 15.

Class 10 Board exams will commence on February 15 and Class 12 exams on February 16, according to the date sheet released by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday. The last date of exam for Class 10 is March 21 and for Class 12, it is April 5.

"In 2020, we could only conduct some exams, while in 2021 Board exams could not be held and in 2022, they were split in two sessions. From 2023, we will revert to the normal pattern," Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Exams, told *The Hindu*.

Maldives probing threat to Indian High Commission: MEA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government of the Maldives has taken "swift action" after an Opposition leader called for an arson attack on the Indian High Commission in Male, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

It also said all precautions were being taken in the wake of the threat by the Opposition leader linked to the island nation's former President Abdulla Yameen's party.

Abbas Adil Riza, who earlier held official positions in the Maldivian government, tweeted on December 23 alleging that the February 8, 2012, arson attack in Addu City in the Indian Ocean nation was ordered by India, and called for attacking the Indian High Commission.

Arindam Bagchi

The Maldivian government has launched an investigation into the threat, which has been condemned by the ruling MDP and several other political parties.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the matter was being investigated. "The Indian High Commission there is in close contact with the government of the Maldives and it is taking necessary precautionary measures," he said.

Dalai Lama's visit: Chinese woman held in Bodh Gaya

Press Trust of India
BODH GAYA

The Bihar Police on Thursday detained a Chinese woman at Bodh Gaya for allegedly overstaying in India in connection with an alleged threat to Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, a senior officer said.

"She is being questioned by various agencies on all angles, including visa violation norms," Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters) J.S. Gangwar said.

Earlier, security was beefed up around the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Bodh Gaya and the screening of devotees was intensified.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi termed it "a security issue" and refused to comment further on it.

APPEAL

MASTER NAMAN KUMAR VERMA, only son of Dushyant Verma, 15 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Vellore is suffering from aplastic anemia. This is a type of blood disorder which is life threatening. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT Transplant **Rs. 15 Lakhs.**

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Trust in poll system is paramount, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposing the Election Commission's proposal for a remote voting system for migrants, the Congress on Thursday said the move could seriously "undermine trust in the electoral system".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the EC should "restore trust in the electoral system with transparency and honest engagement with the Opposition's concerns". "Trust in the electoral system is paramount for democracy to function. EVMs have aroused much controversy in India. Unfortunately, fears of their misuse have not been systematically addressed," the Congress leader said.

Modi govt. didn't keep its promise to double farm income by 2022: Cong.

If inflation is accounted for, farmers' earnings have actually reduced now, says Khaira; demanding a White Paper, the All India Kisan Congress chairman said that the Manmohan Singh-led UPA regime helped farmers by announcing higher MSP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Targeting the Narendra Modi government over its promise to double farmers' income by 2022, the Congress on Thursday said the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance government had actually raised farm incomes between 2004 and 2014.

The party also demanded a White Paper from the Modi government for not fulfilling its promise to double farm incomes.

Addressing a press conference, All India Kisan Congress chairman Sukhpal Singh Khaira said the promise was a "myth" and farm incomes had actually gone down.

Raising questions: The Congress said that the BJP's promise was a 'myth' and farm incomes had gone down. FILE PHOTO

"In February 2016, PM Modi had promised doubling of farmers' income by 2022. What to speak of doubling their income, if the inflation is accounted for, the farmers' income has actually reduced during these years," Mr. Khaira said.

Citing the National Sample Survey of 2018, he said it was actually the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government between 2004 and 2014 which had "more than doubled the farmers' income".

Important parameter

Mr. Khaira said the minimum support price (MSP) for crops was one of the basic parameters to determine the income of farmers and the MSP of wheat and paddy was doubled by the UPA government.

The Congress leader said during the UPA, the MSP for wheat was ₹640 a quintal in 2004 and it went up to ₹1,400 a quintal for the 2013-14 season. Similarly, the MSP for paddy in 2004 was ₹560 a quintal, which went up to ₹1,310 a quintal in 2013-14.

In contrast, the MSP for both paddy and wheat did not increase by more than 50% under the BJP regime, Mr. Khaira claimed.

"The Modi government is the first regime to impose Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pesticides, fertilizers and farm appliances..." he said, adding, "doubling of farmers' income was another epic *jumla* [false promise] of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

The Congress leader asked what happened to the recommendations of the committee set up in 2016 for the purpose of doubling farm incomes and questioned the Prime Minister on the non-fulfilment of his promise.

INBRIEF

Mind is not set on contesting elections, says Singh Deo

Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo – locked in a long power tussle with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel – has said that his mind is not set on contesting elections, as in the past. He was on Thursday responding to presspersons seeking clarification on his recent statement about not having made up his mind on contesting the 2023 Assembly election. State Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that even if Mr. Deo did not contest, it would not impact the Congress's prospects in the next Assembly election.

Excited to work with new government in Nepal: India

India is "excited" about working with the new government in Nepal, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday. "Our PM congratulated Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The Nepalese PM also responded and said he wants friendly relations. He talked about natural affinity. Both our countries have unique bilateral relations," he said. CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal was on Monday sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal. PTI

In U.P., Cong. yatra brings Opposition fault lines to fore

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The much-vaunted idea of a united Opposition in Uttar Pradesh is going into a tailspin, with top Opposition leaders – including Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary – likely to skip the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra when it enters the State next week.

The Congress said it had invited several leaders of non-BJP parties in U.P. to take part in the yatra, which will pass through Ghaziabad, Baghpat and Shamli districts in the State.

"Our party has a different ideology. The BJP and the Congress are the same. If you have an invitation on your phone, please send it to me," said Mr. Yadav, when asked by presspersons about joining the yatra. However, in the same conversation, he added, "Our sentiments are with their yatra," though he denied receiving any invite. Both the SP and the RLD have maintained that their leaders have their own engagements and are focusing on strengthening their respective parties.

In the case of Ms. Mayawati, her critical views on the grand old party is very clear.

"The yatra is not a political yatra. It is for saving the ethos and tradition of a pluralist and democratic India. We welcome all those who are joining it and also those whose sentiments are with the Bharat Jodo Yatra," senior All India Congress Committee functionary Surendra Rajput told *The Hindu*.

Reaching out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party leaders during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in New Delhi on December 24. PTI

It is also believed that the route of the yatra which passes through the sensitive districts of Shamli and Bhagpat, both of which have a sizeable Muslim population of about 30%, has also caused concern. The other Opposition parties feel that through the yatra, the Congress is somehow trying to make inroads into the minority community which the SP-RLD alliance considers its core voter base. The BSP is also eyeing the Muslim vote, particularly in western U.P. The recent induction of an influential Muslim face, Imran Masood, into the BSP is being seen as a step to reach out to Muslims in the region.

"It is certain that the other Opposition parties are wary of the yatra passing through these districts and think that if it strengthens the grand old party, it will be at the cost of weakening other Opposition groups. Hence they are not interested," said Manindra Nath Thakur, a political scientist teaching at the Centre for Political Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The yatra will enter U.P. through Loni in Ghaziabad district on January 3.

Analysts also feel that in the politically crucial State, which sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha, such scepticism and narrow considerations may harm the Opposition's prospects to defeat the BJP. Only a united front can pose a challenge to the saffron party in view of results from the past two polls where the gap in vote share between the BJP and its principal challenger was at least of 10%.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP's vote share was about 49%, which was 10% more than the SP-BSP alliance. In the 2022 Assembly election, the difference in the vote share of the main Opposition alliance led by the SP and the ruling party was 10%.

"Only a united Opposition has the potential to emerge victorious in U.P. against a robust social and caste combination of the BJP," Mr. Thakur said.

CBFC wants changes in *Pathaan*, directs makers to submit revised version

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The movie has been battling controversy and calls for a ban after release of its song *Besharam Rang*

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has directed the makers of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Pathaan* to implement "changes" in the movie, including its songs, in accordance with Board guidelines, its chairperson, Prasoon Joshi, said on Thursday.

The CBFC has asked production banner Yash Raj Films to submit the revised version of the spy action thriller before its release next month, Mr. Joshi said in a statement. He did not detail the changes suggested.

Pathaan has been battling controversy and calls for a ban after the release of its song *Besharam Rang*, also featuring Deepika Padukone, on December 12.

A sequence in the song showing Deepika in a saffron bikini led to protests for allegedly hurting "Hindu sentiments".

"The film recently reached the CBFC examination committee for certification. The film went through the due and thorough examining process as per the CBFC guidelines. The committee has guided the makers to implement the advised changes in the film, including the songs, and submit the revised version prior to theatrical release," Mr. Joshi said.

The aim of the CBFC, he said, is to strike a balance between creativity of the makers and sentiments of the audience and accordingly find a solution.

Those who expressed their displeasure over *Besharam Rang* and demanded changes in it include Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The Madhya Pradesh Ulema Board also sought a ban for "misrepresenting Islam".

Norms were followed during yatra, says CRPF

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Day after the Congress wrote a letter to the Home Minister expressing concern over security breaches during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Central Reserve Police Force on Thursday said that all security guidelines were strictly followed. The Delhi Police also said that a sufficient number of security personnel were deployed.

The CRPF said that since 2020, there have been 113 violations by Mr. Gandhi. "Security arrangements made for the protectee works fine when the protectee himself adheres to the security guidelines laid down," it said.

Journalist M.S. Prabhakara passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.S. Prabhakara, journalist, academic and author in English and Kannada, passed away at his residence in Kolar on Thursday. He was 87.

He had served as correspondent for *The Hindu* for many decades in Assam and South Africa.

He was born in Kolar in Karnataka in 1936, and had lived for nearly three decades in Assam, first as a teacher in Gauhati University and later as a correspondent of *The Hindu*.

M.S. Prabhakara

He lived for nearly a decade in South Africa, during its most turbulent years. He was *The Hindu*'s first correspondent on the continent.

Prabhakara had an Honours degree and a Master's in the English language and literature from Central College, Bengaluru. He taught for four years in Bengaluru and Dharwad before joining Gauhati University in 1962.

He resigned from Gauhati University in 1975, and joined *Economic and Political Weekly*. He returned to Guwahati in June 1983 as the Special Correspondent of *The Hindu* and, later, also *Frontline*, covering developments in Assam and its neighbourhood in Northeast India, travelling widely in the region. He retired in 2002. Among his important works is a collection of essays, *Words and Ideas*, and a collection of his longer analytical essays, *Looking Back into the Future: Identity and Insurgency in Northeast India*.

As per his wishes, the body has been donated to M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt.of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030, Telangana
CORRIGENDUM
PGDM (ABM) 2023-25 NOTIFICATION
The last date for submitting online/offline applications to the PGDM (ABM) 2023-25 batch at MANAGE is extended up to **15th February 2023.**
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Principal Coordinator PGDM (ABM)

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Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1331-2022-23 PH Circle, Palakkad

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +914762666722 to 733, E-mail : contact@kmml.com,URL :www.kmml.com
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No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2022_KMML_543514_1	For procurement of inconnel plate, pre-fabrication, supply and erection of top dome and bottom conical portion of pigment separator s 301 B
2.	2022_KMML_542661_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
3.	2022_KMML_544119_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
4.	2022_KMML_542605_1	For the supply of SS Pipes and Fittings
5.	2022_KMML_539599_1	For the supply of Uniform cloths(Suiting-1884MR and Shirting- 3375MR) for KMML Employees

Chavara. 29.12.2022 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

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Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HUBLI
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂಕಿಮ್ಸ್/ಆ/ಪೂ.ವಿ.(1)/ಡಿ/573/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28-12-2022
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರಾದ **ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕಿಮ್ಸ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಔಷಧ/ಕೆಮಿಕಲ್ಸ/ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ಸ್ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಪೂರೈಸುವದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **https://www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

CITATION
IN THE COURT OF Ist.ADDL.DIST & SESSION JUDGE AT KALABURAGI
REGULAR APPEAL NO.21of 2017
1. The State Through Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi
2. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Kalaburagi
3. District.health and family welfare officer, Z.P Kalaburagi (DHO)
....Appellants
V/S
1. Mohamad Yousuf Alli S/o Mohammed Imam saheb Age: major, Occ: Nil R/o Lohar Galli, Kalaburagi
2. Mallamma W/o Shambulingappa Age: Major, Occ: Household, R/o Devadurg, Dist: Kalaburagi
3. Dr. Siddabasappa S/o Kalyana Age: Major, Occ: Medical Practitioner, Joshi, compound, Opp: old Govt. College, Station Road, Kalaburagi.
4. Smt.Shobha W/o Dr. Siddabassappa, Age: Major, Occ: Nil, joshi Compound opp: old Govt. College, Station Road, Kalaburagi.
5. Dr. Suresh Navani S/o Yeshwantrao patil, Age: Major, Occ; Medical practitioner, R/o Gazipura, Kalaburagi.
6. Tammannappa S/o Apparao post Malagatti through LRS.
   a) Smt. Shivamma W/o Tamanappa, Age: Major, occ: Household, R/o Malagatti, Revanasiddeshwar Nagar, Kalaburagi.
   b) Rajendra S/o Tamanappa, Age: major, occ: Business, R/o Malagatti, Now plot No.1, Sy. No. 118 Kapanoor T.V. extension, Revanasiddeshwar Colony, Kalaburagi.
   c) Smt. Revamma D/o Tamanappa, W/o Anneppa, Age: major, Occ:household, R/o Now at Putani Galli, Kalaburagi
   d) Smt. Chatura D/o Tamanappa, W/o Dharamarao, Age: major, Occ: not known, R/o Heroor, Tq.&Dist: Kalaburagi, Now at present: Jainapur, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.
   e) Smt. Vijaya D/o Tamanappa, W/o Mallikarjun, Age: Major, Occ: not known, R/o Kalaburagi.now at present Shantinagar, Kalaburagi
   f) Smt. Anusuyya D/o Tamanappa, W/o Basawaraj, Age:major, Occ:not Known, R/o Zapur, Village, TQ&Dist: Kalaburagi. Now at present: jagat, Kalaburagi.
   g) Mallikarjun S/o Tamanappa, Age: major, Occ: not known, R/o Malagatti Village, Tq. Chitapur, Now at present Jainagar, Kalaburagi
7. Ramayya S/o Chandayya yelgol, Age:major, Occ:business, R/o prop, Mohan wine bar, station Bazar, Kalaburagi.
8. Panditrao S/o Ramachanderrao patil, age: major, Occ: lecture in PDA Engineering college, Kalaburagi.
9. Bhimashankar S/o Masnappa beble (B.H. Habbale) age: major, Occ: charted Accountant, super market, Kalaburagi. Through LRs.
   a) Smt Savitribai W/olate Bhimashankar Hebbeliker, age:58years, Occ:Household, R/o Vishweshwarayya Colony, Kalaburagi.
   b) Kshemanand S/o Late Bhimashankar, Hebblikar, Since deceased through his LRS.
   a. Kavita D/o Kshemanand,Age; Major Occ; House hold
   b. Manish s/o Kshemanand Age'; Major Occ; Nill,
   C. Ashish s/o Kshemanand Age; Major Occ; Nill All R/o Kalaburagi
   c) Premanand S/o Late Bhimashanker Hebblikar, age:31 years, Occ:Tax practitioner, R/o Vishweshwarayya Colony, Kalaburagi.
10. Mallikarjun S/o Mahantappa jumpani, Age: major, Occ: PWD Contract, R/o Farhatabad Tq.&Dist: Kalaburagi
11. M.Mahantesh S/o Malkappa Mogalay, Advocate, age:Major, R/o Kuvempu Nagar, behind police Quarters, Kalaburagi.
12. Anilkumar S/o parsuram Malu, Age: Major, Occ:business, R/o Asif Gunj, Kalaburagi.
13. Parasuram S/o Kanayayaalal Malu, Age: Major, Occ: Business, R/o Asif Gunj, Kalaburagi.
14. Smt. Saranamma W/o Sharanappa Pradhani, Age:Major, Occ: Household R/o Master Centre, Gazipura Kalaburagi,
15. Suresh Kumar S/o Parashuram Maheshwari, Age: Major, Occ: Business, R/o Asif Gunji Kalaburagi.
16. Basawaraj S/o Shivalingappa Age:Major, Occ:Business, R/o Kalaburagi.
17. Suryakanth S/o Shivalingappa Shahabadi, Through Lr. Smt.Savit, defendant No.19
18. Dasharath S/o Ranappa Wanti, Age:Major Occ:Business, R/o Sundarnagar, Kalaburagi.
19. Smt.Savita W/o Suryakanth Shahabadi,Age:Major, Occ:Household, R/o M.B. Nagar, New Extension, near Shivamandir, Kalaburagi.
20. Mahashwarappa S/o amrappa Donur, Age: Major, Occ:Business, R/o Laxmipur, Tq.Shorapur Dist: Kalaburagi.
21. Bandewhwarappa S/o Late: Gondenoor Pampanna, Age:Major Occ: Business R/o Devadurga,Tq:&Dist: Kalaburagi.
22. Ravikumar S/o Amarappa, Age: Major, Occ: Business, R/o Laxmipur, Tq: Shorapur Dist: Kalaburagi.
Respondents
Appeal U/O under 41 Rule 1 of CPC
Petition U/O VR 20 of CPC
To
LRS of Respondent No.1
A. Syed Ejaz s/o Yusuf Ali Age; 41 Yrs OCC; Business
B. Ameeruddin Baba s/o Yusuf Ali Age; 52 yrs Occ: Business
Both R/o Makka Colony Ramanasapura, Hyderabad Telangana -
Whereas the above named appellants being aggrieved by the judgment and decree passed by the III Addl. Senior Civil Judge at Kalaburgi in O.S. No. 151/1997 dated 13.04.2016.
Whereas several time notices were issued by this court in the ordinary courses as well as RPAD, but returned as un-served either not found or on some other grounds, it appears that you are intentionally avoiding services of notice of the court.
You are hereby warned appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 01-02-2023 at about 10:30am. otherwise the petition will be decided in your absence on merits.
"By order of the court"
Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer
District Court, Kalaburgi
Sd/-
Barude, Shivaputrappa.K.
DGP, Kalaburgi.
Advocate for Appellants
DIP/Kalaburagi/1021/MC&A/2022-23

‘ICHR now publishes only papers of those playing second fiddle’

The BJP found some documents published earlier by the Indian Council of Historical Research embarrassing, says the president of the just-concluded 81st session of the Indian History Congress

INTERVIEW

Kesavan Veluthat

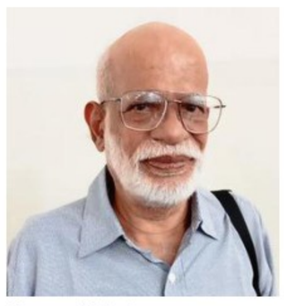
Dennis S. Jesudasan

Professor Kesavan Veluthat, the president of the 81st session of the Indian History Congress, which concluded in Chennai on Thursday, shares his views on the functions of the Indian Council of Historical Research and on whether there was democracy in ancient India. Excerpts:

How has the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) evolved over the years?

The ICHR was founded in 1972 when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and Professor R.S. Sharma was made its Chairman. In the second half of the 1970s, British historian [Nicholas] Mansergh published *Transfer of Power* but that represented the Empire’s version of transfer of power to India. As a counter to this kind of imperialist representation, the ICHR started a major project “Towards Freedom” and Professor S. Gopal was its Director and a large number of volumes were published bringing out documents from the last years of the British in India. The ICHR was promoting a kind of historical research which was secular in character and was also scientific wherein the methodology was transparent...

But, in the 1990s, when the BJP government came to power, it found many of these findings difficult and embarrassing. One of the basis for the RSS and the BJP politics is the hatred of minorities. Muslims, Christians are all non-Indian, anti-Indian and any history



Kesavan Veluthat

which speaks about anything good that is done during the period of the Sultanate of Delhi or the Mughal Empire is unacceptable to that kind of [RSS/BJP] ideology. The ICHR’s support of archaeology was injurious to the theory that the original home of the Aryans was India. If Aryans’ homeland is outside, then the Vedas are also from outside, and what is there for you to hate about the Muslims, Christians? The latter half of the 1930s and early 1940s, etc., were periods when the RSS was hand-in-glove with the British. The documents relating to that were being published and it was embarrassing to the BJP naturally. The BJP, which is playing the cards of nationalism, found this past very embarrassing. The Vajpayee government stopped publication of this “Towards Freedom” series. After 2014, when Mr. [Narendra] Modi became the Prime Minister, the term of Dr. Basudev Chatterji as the ICHR Chairman was terminated and Y. Sudershan Rao with no visibility in the academic world was made the chairman. And now, only papers of second fiddles are being published.

Recently, the ICHR published a book *India: The Mother of Democracy*. Is there evidence to suggest democracy in ancient India?

In 1911, there was a historian K.P. Jayaswal, who was teaching history in the Calcutta University. He wrote a series of articles about the republics and kingdoms in the 6th century BC. One of the things that he found about some of them was there was no monarchical rule during the Mahajanapadas and that they were republican and self-governing and that they were democratically organised. After pressure from the British, he was asked to resign but his writings were later published as a book, which was named *Hindu Polity: A Constitutional History of India in Hindu Times*. So, this book is actually the foundation for those who argue that India was the ‘mother of democracy’.

The Kudavolai system from Uthiramerur shows only members of the sabha can take part and those who own property in the village, those who have studied Vedas. Brahmins alone could participate in the process. Is this democracy? Republics were only about the chiefs, the landed magnates of that region, who, among themselves, looking after the affairs. There was no monarchy, no single ruler and it was a kind of oligarchy.

(For full interview, go to bit.ly/veluthat)

INBRIEF

IAF test-fires extended range BrahMos cruise missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday successfully fired the extended range (ER) version of BrahMos and air-launched the supersonic cruise missile against a ship target from a SU-30MKI fighter aircraft. According to an IAF statement, “The missile achieved the desired mission objectives in the Bay of Bengal. The IAF has achieved a significant boost to carry out precision strikes against land/sea targets.”

CBI searches fake listing of foreign medical graduates

In a nationwide crackdown, the CBI has conducted searches at more than 90 locations in a case against 73 foreign medical graduates, besides unknown officials of 14 State medical councils and the erstwhile Medical Council of India, for alleged use of fake qualifying certificates for their registration. Among the alleged beneficiaries, 21 had taken their degrees from medical institutions in China, 14 from Russia, seven from Nepal, six from the former USSR, and four from Kyrgyzstan.

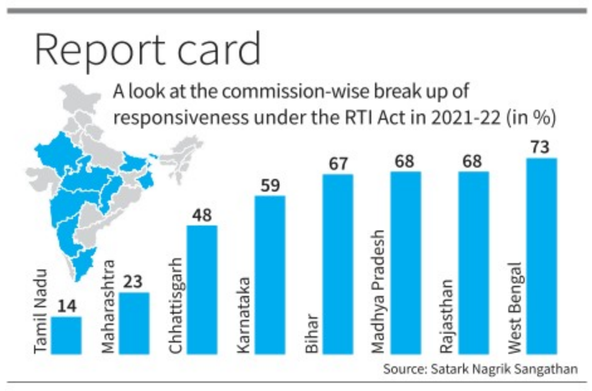
Two cases filed against Cox & Kings for bank fraud

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered two cases of alleged bank credit fraud involving over ₹68 crore against Cox & Kings Limited. Among those named as accused in both the cases are the company’s directors Anthony Bruton Meyrick Good, Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar and Urrshila Kerkar. In both cases, they had contacted the banks for subscription of the company’s commercial paper (short-term debt instrument used for raising funds).

Study shows T.N. is worst performing in RTI responsiveness

While the Tamil Nadu Information Commission furnished only 14% of the details sought, Maharashtra was second worst, sharing 23% of data

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI



The State Information Commission of Tamil Nadu has been the worst performing in responsiveness under the Right to Information Act, furnishing only 14% of the information sought.

Maharashtra was the second worst, sharing 23% of the information asked for, according to a report card on the performance of Information Commissions (ICs) in India for 2021-22 by the Satark Nagrik Sangathan.

Only 10 ICs provided full information in response to the RTI applications filed as part of this assessment. These included Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Jharkhand and the north-eastern States of Sikkim, Nagaland and Tripura.

The organisation said that as part of the assessment, in order to access information about the functioning of ICs, it filed RTI applications with the 28 State Information Commissions (SICs) and the Central Information Commission (CIC).

“A total of 145 RTI applications were filed seeking identical information from all the 29 ICs. The RTI applications were tracked to assess how each IC performed as a public authority, in terms of maintaining and disclosing information,” it said.

“The SIC of Tamil Nadu was the worst performing as it denied most of the information sought, including regarding the number of appeals and complaints dealt with by the IC, details of penalty imposed and compensation awarded stating that the information could be provided only ‘after getting the approval of State Legislative Assembly’,” though no such provision exists in the RTI Act.

No orders passed

The SIC of Chhattisgarh denied information on several points stating that under the prevailing State rules, in one application, information on only one topic could be sought, while the SIC of Bihar, which failed to provide any information under the RTI Act for the assessments published in 2020 and 2021, significantly improved its performance and furnished 67% of the information that was sought.

The report card further said that a large number of ICs across the country were returning cases without passing orders. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh returned around 40% of the appeals or complaints received by them.

Of the 18 Information Commissioners who provided relevant information, the assessment found that 11 returned appeals or complaints without passing any orders.

It also found that several ICs have an extremely low rate of disposal per commissioner. Of all the 29 ICs, only the CIC has adopted a norm on the number of appeals or complaints to be disposed of by each commissioner in one year.

Despite scuffle aboard, flight takes off; BCAS files plaint against accused passengers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Outside the ring: Passengers attacking a man onboard the Thai Smile aircraft. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A group of passengers slapped a co-traveller onboard a Thai Smile aircraft at least 20 times, pulled his hair and punched him as their flight was getting ready for take-off from Bangkok to Kolkata on December 26. Yet the airline did not deem the incident a security risk and the pilots took off after a short delay.

On Thursday, as the video of the in-flight assault went viral, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security stepped in and filed a police complaint in Kolkata against all passengers involved.

The complaint included Amid Mohammad Hussain, the passenger who was slapped, as well as S.K. Azaruddin, who can be seen in the video raining blows, and other passengers involved in the scuffle.

Incident report

According to the airline’s incident report filed to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, as the Thai Smile flight was preparing for take off from Bangkok, Mr. Hussain, who occupied seat 37 C, refused to obey safety instructions and straighten his seat despite repeated requests. He maintained that he suffered from a backache.

The flight attendant explained to Mr. Hussain that a reclined seat posed a safety risk as during evacuation it could block the movement of passengers seated behind him, and could also prevent the occupant of the seat from performing a brace position during an emergency, but the passenger remained adamant.

Later, when the seatbelt sign was turned on, Mr. Hussain refused to wear his seatbelt. This behaviour led to Mr. Azaruddin getting agitated, who then approached Mr. Hussain and started slapping him non stop. He was then joined by at least three other passengers who also hit the man on his face and punched him as Mr. Azaruddin grabbed him by his hair.

Delayed take-off

Amid the melee, the Captain delayed the take-off until the passengers returned to their seats.

Subsequently, the pilots started the journey. The cabin crew ensured that Mr. Hussain was not served alcohol during the flight.

The airline, in its report, did not consider the incident or the passengers a safety risk, nor did it take any corrective measure such as offloading the passengers involved or reporting them to the local police on landing.

The airlines comments in the columns on risk analysis and corrective action in the incident report read “not available”.

Thai Smile’s representative in India, Narsimha Rao, declined to comment on why the airline did not act against the passenger or report them.

THAI Smile’s India office tweeted, “THAI Smile Airways feels sorry for this. We reaffirm that the incident has been taken care of as we followed the flight safety procedures in accordance with international standards.”

TH CROSSWORD + 13750

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

9 Etna erupts in dog star constellation (7)
10 Blue dress - It starts an automobile (3,4)
11 Impassioned to acquire old dodge (5)
12 Judge withdraws support to distressed sister (9)
13 Nit with simpleton in a type of race (3-3-5)
16 He shoots sick tiger with camera phone mostly (15)
18 This instrument translates electrode recording haphazard involuntary talk primarily (3,8)
22 Hints of nude dancing only in public houses (9)
24 Lady's fingers played koras (5)
25 Prying toms' eyes (7)
26 Recreated again with nothing on for audience (7)

Down

1 Clear off Republican involved in racket (5)
2 Courier in maiden voyage (5)
3 Imagine bloody Mary dead? (8)
4 Killer whale seen around in Colombia crossword (4)
5 Unreliable airline's preferred travel time perhaps? (3-2-5)
6 What about wearing extremely seamless belts? (6)
7 Biblical monsters from the Eastern border invaded into the two states originally (9)
8 Foolish conspirer caught out, he goes to big house (8)
14 Daughters struggled with laptops essentially that remain unused for a long time (6,4)
15 8s bury relative as per report (9)
16 Series of whistles after criminal is surrounded by police aggressively (8)
17 Harrison blasted devices that make powerful sounds (8)
19 The cricket team's flap, initially eight for none (6)
20 Lot of people solving crossword, except Ross (5)
21 Right-hand man gets some sops out of the way (5)
23 20-100 = irritated (4)

SUDOKU

	3		2		1			6
5			7				9	
			5		8		7	1
6						8		5
1		2						9
2	7		1		5			
	1				6			7
8			3		7		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5664 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Y	O	U	T	U	B	E	■	P	A	R	C	H	E	D
T	■	N	■	N	■	■	R	■	E	■	O	■	E	
T	S	E	L	I	O	T	■	I	N	V	E	S	T	S
R	A	■	T	■	R	■	M	■	E	■	T	■	T	
I	N	T	E	S	T	A	T	E	■	R	E	I	K	I
U	■	E	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	L	■	N
M	A	N	G	O	■	C	A	P	O	N	I	E	R	E
■	■	■	■	V	■	E	■	I	■	D	■	■	■	
T	H	E	J	E	T	S	E	T	■	S	T	O	I	C
E	■	N	■	R	■	■	■	C	■	■	■	B	■	O
S	A	T	E	S	■	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	A	N
T	■	E	■	P	■	D	■	D	■	A	■	L	■	C
I	N	B	R	E	E	D	■	A	N	Y	W	I	S	E
F	■	B	■	N	■	E	■	R	■	T	■	S	■	R
Y	I	E	L	D	E	D	■	K	N	O	C	K	O	N

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

6	2	7	8	4	9	5	1	3
1	9	8	5	3	7	6	4	2
4	3	5	2	1	6	8	7	9
3	6	9	4	5	1	7	2	8
7	5	1	6	8	2	9	3	4
2	8	4	7	9	3	1	6	5
9	4	2	1	6	5	3	8	7
5	7	6	3	2	8	4	9	1
8	1	3	9	7	4	2	5	6

FAITH

Bharatha’s detachment

Our scriptures, our gurus and yogis advice us to lead a life of detachment. They tell us to shun ambition and embrace the selfless characteristic of charity. Such injunctions may appear to be impossible, however, our epics are replete with examples of people who show us the way forward. One such exceptional guide is Bharatha, who spurned his mother’s wresting of the kingdom of Ayodhya from Rama, said Dhamal Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

Bharatha expresses neither joy nor happiness, only deep anguish and tells his mother Kaikeyi he was ashamed to be identified as her son, since what she did was against dharmic principles. When he goes in search of Rama to refuse the kingdom, and seeks Guha’s help, the latter is initially suspicious of him. After all, who will turn down a kingdom? However, when Bharatha drops to the ground and circumambulates the ground where Rama and Sita had sat, that act allays Guha’s suspicions.

On meeting Rama, Bharatha asks to be allowed in exile with him. When coaxed by Rama, he assumes the role of a caretaker, carries Rama’s padhuka as symbolic occupier of the throne and camps in Nandigram, not Ayodhya. Ever aware of human nature, he does not want anyone to assume he strayed from dharma and stole his brother’s crown. He also serves Rama an ultimatum that if the elder brother fails to return at the end of 14 years to Ayodhya, he will immolate himself. When the deadline nears, Rama sends Hanuman ahead to Ayodhya, wondering if Bharatha had undergone a change of heart. However, a steadfast Bharatha was on the verge of sacrificing himself. Rama says Bharatha is the best example of moral values.

POIPET

At least 19 killed, scores injured in casino fire in Cambodian town

AFP

At least 19 people were killed and many others are feared dead in a fire at a Cambodian casino, officials said, with a rescuer describing how victims hurled themselves from a ledge in a desperate bid to escape the flames. The blaze at the Grand Diamond City hotel-casino in Poipet broke out late on Wednesday night. AFP

LONDON

G7 tells Taliban to 'urgently reverse' ban on women aid staff

AFP

G7 Foreign Ministers on Thursday called on the Taliban to "urgently reverse" a ban on women working in Afghanistan's aid sector. The G7 Ministers said in a joint statement they were "gravely concerned that the Taliban's reckless order... puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival". AFP

BRASILIA

Brazil's Lula gives Marina Silva, Simone Tebet key Cabinet roles

REUTERS

Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday announced a final batch of 16 Cabinet members ahead of his January 1 inauguration. Among Thursday's highlights were Marina Silva for Environment Minister and Senator Simone Tebet as Planning and Budget Minister. REUTERS

MITROVICA

Kosovo reopens Serbia border crossing, roadblocks yet to go

AFP

Kosovo reopened the country's main border crossing with Serbia on Thursday, while Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic said more than a dozen other Serb roadblocks in Kosovo also would be dismantled. The move could defuse weeks of tensions between Kosovo and Serbia that triggered fears of new clashes in the Balkans. AP

Russian missile barrage batters Ukrainian cities

Kyiv says 'the enemy had launched 69 cruise missiles, 54 of which were shot down'; warns of emergency power shutdowns; Energy Minister says the situation remains 'tough' in the west

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

A fresh barrage of Russian missile strikes battered Ukraine on Thursday, wounding at least five people, including a teenager and cutting electricity in the west.

On Thursday morning, blasts were reported across the vast country, including in the Ukrainian capital, the second city Kharkiv in the east and the western city of Lviv on the border with Poland. Most of Lviv, where Russian strikes are still rare, was left without electricity, its Mayor Andriy Sadoviy said.

The missiles struck even the western region of Ivano-Frankivsk at the foothills of the picturesque Carpathian Mountains located nearly 1,000 km from Russia. "The enemy keeps resorting to its missile terror against the peaceful citizens of Ukraine," said Ukraine's commander-in-chief General Valeriy Zaluzhny, adding that Russia had unleashed a wave of air and sea-based cruise missiles. Gen. Zaluzhny said Russia had launched 69 cruise missiles, 54 of which were shot down.

From square one: Rescuers clear debris of homes destroyed by a missile attack on the outskirts of Kyiv on Thursday. AFP

Presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak said earlier that more than 120 missiles had been fired. The attacks came 10 months into Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. In recent weeks Russian strikes have been battering the country's energy grid, leaving millions in the cold and dark in the middle of winter.

Subjugation of Ukraine

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said on Twitter that Moscow was ramping up its campaign of attacks, "cruelly wielding cold and dark" against Ukraine.

"Russia does not want peace with Ukraine. Russia wants the subjugation of Ukraine," added British Ambassador Melinda Simmons. As Ukraine came under fresh attacks, Russian President Vladimir Putin took part by video link in a ceremony that saw a nuclear-powered submarine, the Emperor Alexander III, put to sea. Western intelligence have said Russia is struggling to meet the ordnance needs for the invasion, but Moscow has refuted this.

"We will never run out of Kalibrs," the Russian Defence Ministry said on messaging app Telegram, referring to the cruise missiles used to batter Ukraine.

Moscow has accused pro-Kyiv forces of targeting Russian military sites and civilian infrastructure.

Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko said the situation was "tough" in the west of the country and the regions of Odessa and Kyiv and warned there would be power shutdowns.

Ukrainian missile lands in Belarus

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Belarus said a Ukrainian missile fell on its territory on Thursday, raising fears of the conflict spilling over, with the Moscow ally sending investigators to establish the cause of the incident.

President Alexander Lukashenko "was immediately informed", said a statement posted on a Telegram channel close to the presidency. It said an S-300 missile from Ukrainian territory landed between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. local time, but gave no location. According to leads considered by the authorities, the missile either deviated from its trajectory or was shot down by Belarusian air defences. The statement said there was no information yet about possible injuries or casualties.

Netanyahu sworn in as head of Israel's new far-right govt.

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn into office Thursday, taking the helm of the most right-wing and religiously conservative government in Israel's history and vowing to implement policies that could cause domestic and regional turmoil and alienate the country's closest allies.

Mr. Netanyahu took the oath of office moments after Parliament passed a vote of confidence in his government.

His return marks his sixth term in office, continuing his more than decade-long dominance over Israeli politics.

His new government has pledged to prioritise settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, extend massive subsidies to his ultra-Orthodox allies and push for sweeping reform of the judicial system that could endanger the country's democratic institutions.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Longest serving PM

Mr. Netanyahu is the country's longest serving Prime Minister, having held office from 2009 until 2021 and a stint in the 1990s.

He was ousted from office last year after four deadlocked elections by a coalition of eight parties solely united in their opposition to his rule while on trial for corruption.

That coalition broke apart in June, and Mr. Netanyahu and his ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox allies secured a parliamentary majority in November's election.

"I hear the constant cries of the opposition about the end of the country and democracy," said Mr. Netanyahu after taking the podium in Parliament ahead of the government's formal swearing-in on Thursday afternoon. "Opposition members: to lose in elections is not the end of democracy, this is the essence of democracy."

Mr. Netanyahu heads a government comprised a hard-line religious ultranationalist party dominated by West Bank settlers, two ultra-Orthodox parties and his nationalist Likud party.

U.S. approves $180-million weapons sale to Taiwan

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. State Department approved on Wednesday the $180 million sale of vehicle-launched anti-tank systems to Taiwan, the Pentagon said, the latest weapons deal between the self-governed island and its main ally.

Taiwan would receive Volcano anti-tank munition-laying systems, ammunition, logistics support packages and other services, according to Pentagon.

Lack of info on China's COVID surge stirs global concern

Associated Press
BEIJING

China has been accused of not being forthcoming about the virus since it first surfaced in 2019

Moves by several countries to mandate COVID-19 tests for passengers arriving from China reflect global concern that new variants could emerge in its ongoing explosive outbreak – and that the government may not inform the rest of the world quickly enough.

There have been no reports of new variants to date, but China has been accused of not being forthcoming about the virus since it first surfaced in the country in late 2019. The worry is that it may not be sharing data now on any signs of evolving strains that could spark fresh outbreaks elsewhere.

The U.S., Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Italy have announced testing requirements for passengers from China. The U.S. cited both the surge in infections and what it said was a lack of information, including genomic sequencing of the virus strains in the country.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin noted on Thursday that many countries have not changed their policies for travellers from China and said that any measures should treat people from all countries equally.

Chinese health officials have said the current outbreak is being driven by versions of the omicron variant that have also been detected elsewhere.

Seoul stages drills simulating downing of N. Korean drones

Associated Press
SEOUL

South Korea staged large-scale military drills on Thursday to simulate shooting down drones as a step to bolster its readiness against North Korean provocations, three days after the North flew drones into its territory for the first time in five years.

Thursday's training involved land-based anti-air guns, drones playing the role of enemy drones, and a total of 20 fighter jets, attack helicopters and unmanned assets. While there was no actual live-fire, it was still the country's first set of major anti-drone drills since 2017, according to military authorities.

Test fire: South Korean soldiers operating a 20-mm Vulcan rotary cannon during a drill on Thursday in Yangju. GETTY IMAGES

Also on Thursday, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol reiterated his push to build a stronger air defence and get tough on North Korean provocations.

'Chinese jet came within 20 feet of U.S. military plane'

Reuters
WASHINGTON

A Chinese military plane came within 20 feet of a U.S. Air Force aircraft and forced it to take evasive manoeuvres to avoid a collision in international airspace over the South China Sea last week, the U.S. military said on Thursday.

The incident, which involved a Chinese Navy J-11 fighter jet and a U.S. Air Force RC-135 aircraft, took place on December 21, the U.S. military added in a statement.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2 (BSWML),
2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Bengaluru– 560 056. Phone No: 6362975012

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/12/2022-23 Date: 29.12.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (2nd Call)

(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites tenders on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Project management consultancy works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per KC-6 and KC-7 standard tender documents.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 13.01.2023 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Project Period
1.	Providing Project Management Consultant to provide Support and Services to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML)	One year

NOTE:

1. Qualification documents along with necessary information/ documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 13.01.2023 and First Folder containing the Techno-Commercial tender will be opened through e-portal only on 16.01.2023 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
2. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/ 22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e- procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
3. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/3784/AKAR/22-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr. Sudhakar Reddy** S/o Late Muddukrishna Reddy, presently the owner of the Agricultural Land in Sy No. 92/1, measuring 1 Acre 14 Guntas and 2 Guntas Kharab, situated at **Bommenahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** having acquired the same vide Will dated 12.08.2015 from its owner **Late Sri.K.Mohan Reddy** affirms that the below mentioned document has been lost/misplaced:

1. Sale Deed dt 20.12.1996 executed by **Mr. R. Rajanna, Mr. B.R. Lakshminarayana Swamy, Mrs. Kempamma, Mr. Subbanna, Mr. Hanumanthappa and Mr. Anjanappa** in favour of Mr. K. Mohan Reddy, regd as Doc. No. 3574/ 1996-97 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore

Further, the above-stated documents have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and my client is not in a position to trace the said original document(s). The jurisdictional police station has been informed about the same. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or if anyone has a claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **8 days** from this day to the undersigned.

K.V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates
No. 557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038,
Ph: 9945109229.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client, **Mr. V. Venkata Krishna Reddy,** the owner of Agricultural land in Sy.No. 41, measuring 9 Guntas and Sy No. 41, facing Outer-Ring Road, measuring 1 Acre 4 Guntas situated at **Doddanekkundi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** affirms that the following documents have been lost/misplaced:

1. Sale Deed dt 24.03.2003 executed by **Mr. N. Ramanujappa** in favour of **Mr. V. Venkata Krishna Reddy,** regd. as Doc No. 20469/2002-03, stored CD No. 79 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K R Puram, Bangalore.

2. Sale Deed dt 28.09.2002 executed by **Mr. N. Ramanujappa** in favour of **Mr. V. Venkata Krishna Reddy,** regd. as Doc No. 9566/2002-03, stored CD No. 59 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K R Puram, Bangalore. Further, the above-stated documents have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and my client is not in a position to trace the said original document(s). The jurisdictional police station has been informed about the same.

Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or if anyone has a claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **8 days** from this day to the undersigned.

K.V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates
No. 557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038,
Ph: 9945109229.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy** S/o Late Sri. K.Ramasubba Reddy, the owner of the Agricultural land in **(i)** Sy No. 93/2 measuring 1 Acre 7 Guntas and 1 Gunta Kharab, **(ii)** Sy No. 116/1, measuring 2 Acres 4 Guntas, **(iii)** Sy No. 117, measuring 3 Acres 20½ Guntas, **(iv)** Sy No. 119/1, measuring 17 Guntas, **(v)** Sy No. 127/1, measuring 1 Acre 22 Guntas and 2 Guntas Kharab land, **(vi)** Sy No. 127/2 measuring 1 Acre 5 Guntas, **(vii)** Sy No. 127/3 measuring 31 Guntas and 1 Gunta Kharab land and **(viii)** Sy No. 127/4 measuring 29 Guntas and 2 Guntas Kharab land, all situated at **Bommenahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** affirms that the following documents have been lost/misplaced:

1. Sale Deed dt 25.03.1996 executed by **Mr. Munigappa, Mr. Thimmarayappa, Mr. Munibyrappa** and **Mr. Thimmarayappa** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** regd. as Doc. No. 13476/ 1995-96 of Book- I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore.

2. Sale Deed dt 25.07.1996 executed by **Mr.Puttasidappa** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** registered as Document No. 1328/1996-97, stored at Pages 19 to 25 in Volume No. 1347 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore.

3. Sale Deed dt 25.07.1996 executed by **Mr. Hotte Muniyappa also known as Mr. Muniyappa** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy**, regd as Doc. No. 1372/1996-97 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

4. Sale Deed dt 25.07.1996 executed by **Mr. T.S. Basavaraj** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy**, regd. as Doc. No. 1371/1996-97 of Book-I in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

5. Sale Deed dt 20.01.1996 executed by **Mrs. Thimmakka, Mr. Muniraju, Mr. Munikrishnappa** and **Mr. Manjunath** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** regd. as Doc. No. 10910/1995-96 Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

6. Sale Deed dt. 20.01.1996 executed by **Mr. Dodda Munisadappa, Mr. Chikka Munisadappa, Mrs. Muni Thimakka, Mr. Munianjanappa, Mr. Munithimaiah, Mr. Rajanna, Mr. Venkatesh, Mr. Muniraj** and **Mr. Kumar** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** regd as Doc. No. 10906/1996-97 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

7. Sale Deed dt 20.01.1996 executed by **Mr. Munigappa, Mr. Thimayarayappa, Mr. Munibyrappa** and **Mr. Thimmarayappa** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy**, regd. as Doc. No. 13474/1996-97 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

8. Sale Deed dt. 20.01.1996 executed by **Mr. Munibyrappa** and **Mr. Thimmarayappa** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** registered as Document No. 11101/1995-96 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

9. Sale Deed dt 20.01.1996 executed by **Mrs. Giriyamma** and **Mr. Ravi Kumar** in favour of **Mr. K. Balachandra Reddy,** registered as Document No. 10900/1995-96 of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore.

Further, the above-stated documents have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and my client is not in a position to trace the said original document(s). The jurisdictional police station has been informed about the same.

Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or if anyone has a claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **8 days** from this day to the undersigned.

K.V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph: 9945109229.

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INBRIEF

First consignment under Indo-Australia pact flagged off

The first consignment under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) was flagged off on Thursday from Mumbai by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal. The consignments of gem and jewellery were simultaneously dispatched from Mumbai, Surat and Chennai, said the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). "There is a lot of potential for exporting finished products to Australia," Mr. Goyal said.

CapitaLand India Trust to buy IT park in Pune for ₹1,350 cr.

CapitaLand India Trust has agreed to acquire an IT park in Pune for ₹1,350 crore. As per a statement, CapitaLand India Trust, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Ecospace IT Park Pvt. Ltd., has entered into agreements for the acquisition of almost 100% of International Tech Park Pune - Hinjawadi, Pune. Ascendas IT Park (Pune) owns this IT park, an IT SEZ with a total floor area of about 2.3 million sq. ft. The asset is almost fully eased to IT/ITeS tenants. PTI

JK Tyre sets 2050 target to become carbon neutral

Having achieved greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction of more than 57% in the last eight years, JK Tyre said it had set a target to become carbon neutral by 2050. "The company's focus is to work on substituting energy needs with renewable sources," CMD Raghupati Singhania said. "In this direction, JK Tyre is meeting its fair amount of thermal energy requirement through other sources, replacing coal," he added.

Current account deficit widens in Q2 to 9-year high of 4.4% on trade gap

Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians overseas, expand 29.7%; services exports grow 30%, spurred by rising software exports, business and travel services; for the six months to Sept., CAD came in at 3.3% of GDP

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account balance recorded a deficit of $36.4 billion (or a nine-year high of 4.4% of GDP) in the quarter ended September, rising from $18.2 billion (2.2%) in the previous quarter. Deficit for the year-earlier period came in at $9.7 billion (1.3%), according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday.

Underlying the current account deficit (CAD) in Q2 was the widening of the merchandise trade deficit to $83.5 billion in Q2 from $63 billion in April-June and an increase in net outgo under investment income, the RBI said.

In the first six months to September, India recorded a CAD of 3.3% of GDP, again on the back of a sharp increase in goods trade deficit, compared with 0.2% a year earlier.

Net invisible receipts were higher in the first six months, year-on-year (y-o-y), due to higher net receipts of services and private transfers. Services exports in Q2 grew 30.2% y-o-y on rising software exports, business and travel services. Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose 29.7% to $27.4 billion.

Net foreign direct investment slid to $6.4 billion from $8.7 billion. Net foreign portfolio investment in Q2 saw higher inflows of $6.5 billion compared with $3.9 billion a year earlier.

'Q1 CAD revised down'

Net external commercial borrowings clocked an outflow of $0.4 billion versus an inflow of $4.3 billion.

Non-resident deposits saw net inflow of $2.5 billion versus net outflow of $0.8 billion. The CAD for the first quarter has been revised downwards from $23.9 billion (2.8% of GDP) due to downward adjustment in Customs data, the Reserve Bank said.

Bulge in deficits

Merchandise trade deficit ballooning to $83.5 bn in Q2, from $63 bn in April-June, contributed to widening of the CAD

- Net foreign direct investment slid to $6.4 billion from $8.7 billion
- Net foreign portfolio investment in Q2 saw higher inflows of $6.5 billion compared with $3.9 billion a year earlier
- The CAD for April-June has been revised to a lower level due to downward adjustment in Customs data

Indian economy presents a picture of resilience amid global shocks: Das

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Indian economy is confronting strong global headwinds, yet sound macroeconomic fundamentals and healthy balance sheets are providing strength and resilience, engendering financial system stability, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

"Buoyant demand for bank credit and early signs of a revival in investment cycle are benefiting from improved asset quality, return to profitability and

strong capital and liquidity buffers of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)," the RBI said in its Financial Stability Report.

The gross non-performing asset ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) fell to a seven-year low of 5% while net non-performing assets dropped to 10-year low of 1.3% in September as per the report.

"Macro stress tests for credit risk reveal SCBs would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios.

"The system-level capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio in September 2023, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios, is projected at 14.9%, 14% and 13.1%, respectively," the RBI said.

"The banking system is sound and well-capitalised," said Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"In spite of formidable global headwinds, external accounts remain well-cushioned," he added.

Going forward, climate change, dealing with unanticipated shocks, further strengthening financial system buffers, harnessing fintech innovations and deepening financial inclusion would continue to get priority from regulators and policymakers.

Taxmen must recover only dues finalised by NCLT: CBIC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CBIC has asked tax officers to abide by the NCLT order in insolvency cases and recover only GST dues finalised by the tribunal.

In a circular, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said the National Company Law Tribunal proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code will be covered under Sec. 84 of the Central GST Act – dealing with recovery.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,134	0.37
US Dollar	82.87	-0.08
Gold	54,963	-0.29
Brent oil	82.12	0.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3810.60	12.90
Adani Ports	819.55	9.20
Apollo Hosp	4524.45	-64.20
Asian Paints	3115.15	-8.55
Axis Bank	934.55	9.85
Bajaj Auto	3568.80	-18.05
Bajaj Finserv	1511.70	-11.00
Bajaj Finance	6510.90	34.80
Bharti Airtel	820.75	16.95
BPCL	327.20	3.10
Britannia Ind	4348.30	-37.65
Cipla	1087.55	1.75
Coal India	221.65	-1.55
Divis Lab	3412.20	-34.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4260.60	7.85
Eicher Motors	3281.20	69.65
Grasim Ind	1752.75	0.20
HCL Tech	1044.45	9.00
HDFC	2675.40	4.10
HDFC Bank	1641.30	11.50
HDFC Life	571.00	2.80
Hero MotoCorp	2722.20	25.60
Hindalco	469.90	3.95
Hind Unilever	2568.05	-15.55
ICICI Bank	908.05	9.10
IndusInd Bank	1231.15	17.00
Infosys	1517.55	7.40
ITC	335.35	0.95
JSW Steel	769.40	7.70
Kotak Bank	1818.75	-1.35
L&T	2110.90	-10.20
M&M	1262.35	10.00
Maruti Suzuki	8435.80	14.75
NestleIndia	19808.00	-35.60
NTPC	166.75	0.90
ONGC	144.65	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	215.75	0.00
Reliance Ind	2543.30	-1.15
SBI Life	1258.60	16.55
State Bank	611.80	10.75
Sun Pharma	1000.55	5.55
TataConsumerProduct	776.10	-4.05
Tata Motors	385.90	-5.40
Tata Steel	111.75	1.75
TCS	3268.75	11.65
Tech Mahindra	1013.20	-3.05
Titan	2553.25	-26.90
UltraTech Cement	6982.20	-71.60
UPL	722.55	-1.00
Wipro	390.75	2.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.60	82.92
Euro	87.84	88.18
British Pound	99.35	99.77
Japanese Yen (100)	61.75	61.99
Chinese Yuan	11.86	11.91
Swiss Franc	89.21	89.56
Singapore Dollar	61.23	61.48
Canadian Dollar	60.74	60.98
Malaysian Ringitt	18.67	18.75
Australian Dollar	55.45	55.70

Source:Indian Bank

Will the year 2023 bring succour for small savings?

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Centre may opt to maintain status quo on small savings rates to control its borrowing costs

With inflation averaging at more than 6% through 2022 and interest rates rising, there is an economic rationale for returns on small savings instruments such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF) to be raised for the first quarter of 2023, but the government may opt to maintain status quo to keep its own borrowing costs in check.

The Finance Ministry, slated to announce rates for January to March 2023 on Friday, had effected minor hikes of 0.1% to 0.3% on five out of 12 small savings instruments for the current quarter. While this was the first hike since January 2019, the returns on several schemes such as the popular PPF were left untouched.

As per Reserve Bank of India, the rates on these schemes, based on a formula linked to the yields on government securities (G-secs), are 44 to 77 basis points (bps) below their formula-implied rates.

One bp equals 0.01%. As per the formula, the PPF return should have been set at 7.72% instead of the current 7.1%. Also, rates on nine of the 12 schemes were 55 bps-77bps lower than the formula.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said it is crucial to protect vulnerable, low-income groups and senior citizens who park their savings in the schemes from the impact of high inflation, and it would be ideal to follow the formula-based rates.

'India 5G smartphone shipments to cross 4G by end of 2023'

Reuters
BENGALURU

India's 5G smartphone shipments will exceed that of 4G shipments by the end of next year, driven by the mass adoption of the high-speed network and the rise in sale of handsets in the lower-price bands, market research firm Counterpoint said on Thursday.

Although India's smartphone shipments are estimated to dip this year on component supply issues and macroeconomic factors, 5G will continue to

push demand in 2023, the firm added. 5G data speed is expected to be about 10 times faster than that of 4G. 5G handset share in the sub-₹20,000 price band is expected to surge to 30% in 2023 from 4% last year.

Survival Tech files papers with SEBI for ₹1,000-cr. IPO

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Speciality chemical maker Survival Technologies has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to mop up ₹1,000 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to up to ₹200 crore, and an Offer For Sale aggregating to up to ₹800 crore by its promoters and promoter group shareholders, as per Draft Red Herring Prospectus.

'Banks' fundraising spree to continue, to help enhance capital'

Reuters
MUMBAI

Banks are set to raise at least ₹300 bn in Jan.-March, to lock in funding given tight liquidity conditions

Indian banks could continue to actively raise funds via debt markets in the January-March quarter as they look to strengthen their capital base and finance credit demand, analysts and bankers said.

"The market condition is conducive, if you look at the long-term rates for bonds," said Soumyajit Niyogi, director, core Analytical Group at India Ratings and Research.

Indian banks raised an aggregate of ₹611.94 billion in October-December, more than double the ₹301.34 billion raised in July-September, according to data compiled by Reuters.

Banks are set to raise at least ₹300 billion in January-March, as they look to lock in funding in a tightening liquidity situation.

Sport

Alimon Saidalavi and Hemanth Muddappa register dominating victories

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Bengaluru riders Alimon Saidalavi and Hemanth Muddappa scored dominating wins in their respective superbike categories in the third round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Thursday.

Alimon continued his win-spree in the Unrestricted category as he took the honours on a Kawasaki Ninja H2, in a record time of 7.556 seconds over 302 metres to repeat his second-round victory on Wednesday, as he finished ahead of Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) and Attaulla Baig, also from Bengaluru.

Alimon, thus, set the fastest time at the MIC, bettering the previous best of 7.749 by Muddappa. The victory also gave Alimon an unassailable 32-point lead over Baig in the championship standings with a round to spare. The fourth and concluding round of the 2022 Championship will be run at the same venue on Friday.

The winners (Round-3, Provisional, all 4-Stroke Super Sport unless mentioned): **Unrestricted:** Alimon Saidalavi (Bengaluru) (7.556secs). **1051-1650cc:** Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) (7.910). **851-1050cc (Support race):** Saurabh Parabh (Mumbai) (7.880). **551-850cc:** Sidharth Ratan Parmar (Mumbai) (8.510). **361-550cc (Super Sport Indian):** Anish Shetty (PRN Motorsports, Bengaluru) (12.243). **166-225cc (Support race):** P. Srikantha (Bengaluru) (13.520). **Upto 165cc (Super Sport Indian):** Mohan Babu (Rockers Racing, Chennai) (14.154). **2-Stroke 131-165cc:** Prashanth (Bengaluru) (12.821). **2-Stroke Upto 130cc:** Abdul Shaikh (Bengaluru) (13.497).

GIRLS (165cc, Novice): Sarah Khan (Axor Sparks Racing, Mumbai) (16.562).

On fire: Alimon continued his win-spree in the Unrestricted category, on a Kawasaki Ninja H2 in 7.556 seconds. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Star Glory primed to deliver in feature

BENGALURU: Star Glory, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Karnataka Police Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Dec. 30). False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 TAPTI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 1-45 p.m.: 1. She's Innocent (8) Chethan K 60, 2. Master Of Success (2) R. Pradeep 59.5, 3. Artiana (4) Vinod Shinde 59, 4. Country's Jewel (3) Darshan 58.5, 5. He's The One (1) Salman K 57.5, 6. Commandpost (7) Kiran Rai 56, 7. Konichiwa (6) Likith Appu 55, 8. Star Citizen (5) B. Nayak 53.5 and 9. Regal Force (9) I. Chisty 53.
1. REGAL FORCE, 2. KONICHIWA, 3. COUNTRY'S JEWEL

2 GANGA PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 2-15: 1. Emeraldo (2) B. Dharshan 62.5, 2. Southernaristocrat (8) A. Qureshi 62.5, 3. Sekhmet (4) R. Pradeep 62, 4. Speed Seven (3) L.A. Rozario 61, 5. Baba Voss (7) Darshan 60.5, 6. Luminary Star (5) I. Chisty 60.5, 7. Memorable Time (6) Likith Appu 59.5 and 8. Exalted Dream (1) Jagadeesh 57.5.
1. SOUTHERNARISTOCRAT, 2. SPEED SEVEN, 3. SEKHMET

3 VINDICATION PLATE (1,400m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 2-45: 1. Double Scotch (2) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Dynamic Force (3) Akshay K 56, 3. Granpar (4) Trevor 56, 4. Knotty Challenger (6) Nazerul 56, 5. Anzac Pipernal (5) Srinath 54.5 and 6. Fondness Of You (1) Suraj 54.5.
1. ANZAC PIPERNAL, 2. DOUBLE SCOTCH

4 HARANGI PLATE (2,000m), rated 20 to 45, 3-15: 1. Twilight Tornado (2) Darshan 61, 2. Stormy Ocean (3) Trevor 58, 3. Aquamatic (5) Srinath 55, 4. Banksy (4) Neeraj 55, 5. Castaneda (7) Akshay K 55, 6. Bruce Almighty (1) Rayan 54 and 7. Rule Of Law (6) I. Chisty 50.5.
1. STORMY OCEAN, 2. AQUAMATIC

5 PHAR LAP PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-45: 1. Green Channel (6) Srinath 60, 2. Memoriter (4) Chethan K 60, 3. Silver Dew (7) Darshan 59, 4. Elusive Girl (2) L.A. Rozario 58, 5. Southern Ruler (5) Nazerul 57.5, 6. The Response (8) Sai Kiran 57.5, 7. Southern Power (3) Akshay K 55, 8. Golden Time (9) G. Vivek 54.5 and 9. Benediction (1) Jagadeesh 53.5.
1. GREEN CHANNEL, 2. GOLDEN TIME, 3. MEMORITER

6 KARNATAKA POLICE TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 4-15: 1. De Villiers (6) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Forever Together (4) L.A. Rozario 57, 3. Aztec Queen (5) Akshay K 56, 4. Indian Patriot (2) Likith Appu 56, 5. Kensington Court (7) Trevor 55.5, 6. Star Glory (3) Suraj 55, 7. Silver Ikon (1) P. Siddaraju 54.5 and 8. Hukum (8) B. Nayak 53.5.
1. STAR GLORY, 2. KENSINGTON COURT, 3. AZTEC QUEEN

7 KALI PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Peluche (3) Darshan 61.5, 2. Kings Speech (8) B. Dharshan 61, 3. Eco Friendly (5) Sai Kiran 60, 4. Almanach (7) Srinath 59.5, 5. Queen Regnant (4) A. Imran 59, 6. Dr Logan (2) L.A. Rozario 57.5, 7. Lycurgus (1) P. Siddaraju 57.5 and 8. Je Ne Sais Quoi (6) Indrajeet S 55.5.
1. ALMANACH, 2. KINGS SPEECH, 3. PELUCHE

8 TAPTI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Princess Jasmine (1) Likith Appu 62.5, 2. Singhsaab (2) A. Qureshi 62.5, 3. Rorito (4) A. Imran 61.5, 4. Altamonte (7) Darshan 60.5, 5. Thunderstruck (5) Sai Kiran 60.5, 6. Sweet Kiss (9) Nazerul 60, 7. Apollo Light (6) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 8. Elite Agent (3) Kiran Rai 58.5 and 9. Praia Do Cassino (8) P. Siddaraju 55.5.
1. THUNDERSTRUCK, 2. ALTAMONTE, 3. PRINCESS JASMINE

Day's best: STAR GLORY
Double: ANZAC PIPERNAL – GREEN CHANNEL
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

FACILE WIN

Haaland scores twice as Manchester City cruises past Leeds

Erling Haaland's double strike helped Manchester City cruise to a 3-1 victory at Leeds on Wednesday. The win moved the champion to 35 points and close the gap on PL leader Arsenal to five points.

The result: Leeds 1 (Struijk 73) lost to Manchester City 3 (Rodri 45+1, Haaland 51, 64).

TAKING THE HELM

Rashid Khan appointed Afghanistan T20I captain

Star leg-spinner Rashid Khan was on Thursday named Afghanistan's new Twenty20 captain, replacing veteran Mohammad Nabi. Rashid, 24, was appointed captain ahead of the 2021 T20 World Cup as well but had stepped down following the announcement of the squad, claiming he was not consulted over selection.

ETERNAL PAIN

Will never get over World Cup heartbreak, says Mbappe

PSG's France star Kylian Mbappe said on Wednesday he would never get over the disappointment of losing the World Cup final. Mbappe said he had been through some "difficult times" since the defeat but showed few signs of the setback as he converted a penalty to give PSG victory over Strasbourg on Ligue 1's resumption.

MAKING THE CUT

Suryakumar, Smriti among T20 Cricketer-of-the-Year nominees

India's Suryakumar Yadav and Smriti Mandhana were on Thursday nominated for the men's and women's T20 Cricketer-of-the-Year awards. England's Sam Curran, Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan and Zimbabwean Sikandar Raza, Pakistan's Nida Dar, Kiwi Sophie Devine and Australian Tahlia McGrath are other nominees.

Pele passes away

Nicknamed *O Rei*, the Brazilian is the only player in history to win three World Cups and he scored more than 1000 goals in his illustrious career

GENERAL

Agencies
SAO PAULO

Goodbye, legend! Pele, considered as the greatest-ever football player, breathed his last on Thursday. AP

Brazilian football icon Pele, widely regarded as the greatest player of all time and a three-time World Cup winner who masterminded the "beautiful game," has died at the age of 82, his family said on Thursday.

"Everything we are is thanks to you. We love you infinitely. Rest in peace," daughter Kely Nascimento wrote on Instagram.

Named athlete of the century by the International Olympic Committee in 1999, Pele, born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, is the only footballer in history to win three World Cups – 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Nicknamed *O Rei* (The King), he scored more than 1,000 goals in one of the most storied careers in sport, before retiring in 1977. Pele's 1,281 goals in 1,366 games, as tabulated by FIFA's website, came at a startling rate of 0.94 per match. Some of those were friendlies or came in games played as part of his military service, but he was just as prolific in official tournaments, with 757 goals in 812 games.

Sublime skills

Known for his genius with the ball, he epitomised the sublime style of play called "samba football" in Brazil, where he was declared a "national treasure."

But beyond his records, he will be remembered for revolutionising the sport, his ever-present number 10 on his back.

The first global football star, he played a lead role in the game's transformation into a sporting and commercial powerhouse.

Pele had suffered from a series of health issues in recent years, including hip surgery that left him with recurring pain and trouble walking unaided. He reduced his public appearances, but remained active on social media.

Pele is survived by six known children. A seventh, whom he didn't recognise as his own for years, died of cancer in 2006.

Australia pulls off innings victory to seal series

Task completed: The Australians return to the pavilion after posting another ruthless win. AP

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

South Africa capitulated on Thursday against rampant top-ranked Australia to lose the second Test here by an innings and 182 runs on Thursday and with it the series. South Africa, which slumped by six wickets in the opener at Brisbane inside two days, have a potential face-saving third match at Sydney still to play.

The Proteas resumed day four on 15 for one after skipper Dean Elgar was caught by Alex Carey off Pat Cummins for a duck before rain halted play early on Wednesday.

Temba Bavuma top-scored with 65 while Nathan Lyon took three for 58.

Australia will have a new-look team with Cameron Green and Mitchell Starc already ruled out as they race the clock to be ready for a blockbuster series in India in February.

Wickets fell despite the hosts' attack being depleted, with Cameron Green, who took five for 27 in the first innings, ruled out of bowling again in Melbourne – and the final Test in Sydney – with a fractured finger. Mitchell Starc was also nursing a bruised and bloodied finger, but he played through the pain.

de Bruyn built up to 28, but Scott Boland enticed an edge that was taken by the ever-reliable Smith in the slips for his 150th catch.

The scores: South Africa 189 & 204 in 68.4 overs (Theunis de Bruyn 28, Temba Bavuma 65, Kyle Verreynne 33; Nathan Lyon 3/58) lost to Australia 575/8.
MoM: David Warner.

Pakistan fights to avoid defeat after Williamson double ton

Desperate measures! With the bowlers unable to dislodge Williamson, Abrar thinks the only option is forcing a run out. AFP

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Pakistan will need to bat out the last day to avoid defeat in the first Test after New Zealand gained the upper hand, here on Thursday, through a masterly undefeated double century by Kane Williamson.

Trailing by 174 runs after the first innings, Pakistan finished the fourth day on 77 for two, with Imamul-Haq on 45 and nightwatchman Nauman Ali four.

Pakistan has lost its last four Tests – including a first-ever 3-0 whitewash at the hands of England – and is now 97 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Earlier, Williamson's unbeaten double century enabled the visitors to declare their first innings on 612 for nine.

Williamson reached 200 with a single off spinner Abrar Ahmed, having batted for 10 hours and striking 21 boundaries and a six in an innings which saw him overturn two leg-before decisions on 13 and 116.

He also survived two stumpings off spinner Nauman on 15 and 21.

The scores:
Pakistan 438 & 77/2 in 31 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 45 batting) vs New Zealand 612/9 decl. in 194.5 overs (Tom Latham 113, Devon Conway 92, Kane Williamson 200 n.o., Daryl Mitchell 42, Tom Blundell 47, Ish Sodhi 65).

Siverio nets a brace as HFC thrashes NorthEast

In the act: Siverio celebrates one of his two strikes.
FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

ISL-9

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

Javier Siverio scored a brace as Hyderabad FC beat NorthEast 6-1 in an ISL match at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday. The Bartholomew Ogbeche-led side pumped in five goals and was aided by an own goal from NorthEast as the home side vanquished the visitor to reclaim the top spot.

Hyderabad finished the calendar year on top of the points table with 28 points. While Siverio scored two goals, Borja Herrera, Odei Onaindia, Joel Chianese found the back of the net for the table-toppers.

Javier Siverio found the back of the net early as the home side doubled the lead soon through Boria Herrera to leave NorthEast gasping for breath.

Akash Mishra made a fine run down the left as Ogbeche collected the pass and smashed it straight to the keeper resulting in a corner. Siverio then converted it into a goal to give Hyderabad the lead in the eighth minute.

There was no stopping for the home side as Herrera assisted by Nikhil Poojary scored the second goal in the 24th minute by smashing the ball low to the far end of the post as a diving Mirshad Koottappunna failed to stop Hyderabad from taking a 2-0 lead. The second half saw Hyderabad further dominate as the yellow outfit won the match 6-1.

The results: Hyderabad FC 6 (Javier Siverio 8, 73, Borja Herrera 24, Odei Onaindia 30, Joel Chianese 77, Gaurav Bora 80-og) bt NorthEast 1 (Aaron Evans 36).

Sakshi and Aashna keep winning

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Maharashtra's duo of Sakshi Chitlange and Aashna Makhija cruised to their fourth victory to stay ahead after four rounds of the MPL National women's chess championship at Kolhapur on Thursday.

On the top two boards, involving the four overnight leaders, Sakshi tamed state-mate Vrushali Deodhar in 47 moves and Aashna defeated Bengal's Bristy Mukherjee in 55 moves.

Also winning their games were top seed Vantika Agrawal and defending champion Divya Deshmukh.

Leading results (fourth round): Vrushali Deodhar (3) lost to Sakshi Chitlange (4); Bristy Mukherjee (3) lost to Aashna Makhija (4); Vantika Agrawal (3.5) bt Rutuja Bakshi (2.5); A.G. Nimmy (2.5) lost to Divya Deshmukh (3.5); Soumya Swaminathan (3) drew with B. Mounika Akshya (3); Tejaswini Sagar (2.5) lost to Mary Ann Gomes (3.5); Bhakti Kulkarni (3) drew with Kiran Manisha Mohanty (3); Vishwa Shah (3.5) bt Aakanksha Hagawane (2.5); Srishti Pandey (3) drew with C.M.N. Sunyuktha (3); V. Varshini (3) drew with Dakshita Kumawat (3); Samriddha Ghosh (3.5) drew with M. Mahalakshmi (2.5); Rucha Pujari (2.5) drew with Rebecca Jesumarian (2.5); Saniya Tadavi (2.5) drew with Nisha Mohota (2.5); Swati Ghate (2.5) drew with Kheerthi Ganta (2.5).

Raunak shares seventh spot in blitz; Harika keeps medal hopes

Sports Bureau

Youngster Raunak Sadhwani shared the seventh spot to stay in the medal-hunt after 12 rounds of the World blitz chess championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

On a day when the Indians struggled, Hikaru Nakamura (10 points) enjoyed a one-point lead over Magnus Carlsen, Anish Giri, Daniil Dubov, Haik Martirosyan and Richard Rapport. Nine rounds remain.

Playing well over his starting rank of 30, Sadhwani won seven rounds, including the last two, drew three and lost two.

Nihal Sarin and P. Harikrishna (8 each) were among those sharing the 14th spot. Arjun Erigaisi (7.5), who finished fifth in the rapid format on Wednesday, recovered from a slow start to win the last three rounds.

Interestingly, Surya Shekhar Ganguly figured in all 12 decisive battles. He won five of the first six games but lost five of the next six games.

After nine rounds of action in the women's section, 10th seed D. Harika (6.5 points) shared the sixth spot.

Russians Valentina Gunina and Polina Shuvalova (7.5) shared the lead, half-a-point ahead of the trio of Tan Zhongyi (China), Aleksandra Goryachkina and Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russians representing FIDE).

Sethuraman stops Venkatesh, opens half-point lead

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Displaying his superiority in no small measure, S.P. Sethuraman overpowered fellow-Grandmaster M. R. Venkatesh in 52 moves to emerge as the leader with seven points from eight rounds of the MPL National chess championship here on Thursday.

Once Venkatesh erred on the 24th move with a bishop-retreat, Sethuraman never loosened his grip and prevailed comfortably in an endgame involving the queens and pawns.

Following this sixth victory, Sethuraman enjoys a half-point lead over Mitrabha Guha and Koustav Chatterjee.

Mitrabha, an overnight leader with Sethuraman and Venkatesh, drew with Leon Mendonca in 45 moves while Koustav ended N. R. Vignesh's struggle in 56 moves.

Deep Sengupta scored his second successive victory with white pieces after facing Neelotpal Das.

Abhijeet Gupta, leader after the fifth round, avoided a hat-trick of losses in style by beating Audi Ameya.

Leading results (eighth round): M.R. Venkatesh (6) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (7); Leon Mendonca (6) drew with Mitrabha Guha (6.5); Karthik Venkataraman (6) drew with Aronyak Ghosh (6).

Koustav Chatterjee (6.5) bt N.R. Vignesh (5.5); Mehar Chinna Reddy (6) drew with P. Iniyan (6); Audi Ameya (5.5) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (6).

Ajay Krishna (5.5) drew with N.R. Visakh (5.5); Deep Sengupta (6) bt Neelotpal Das (5); Aradhya Garg (5) lost to L.R. Srihari (6).

Anuj Shrivatri (5.5) drew with Subhayan Kundu (5.5).

Vedant Panesar (5.5) drew with Mohamed Anees (5.5); N.B. Hari Madhavan (6) bt Sai Vishwesh (5); Yash Bharadia (5) lost to Sandipan Chanda (5.5).

Dhanush lifts gold with a record-breaking effort

Great effort: Dhanush during his record lift in the clean & jerk section. K. KEERTHIVASAN

NATL. WEIGHTLIFTING

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

NAGERCOIL: Tamil Nadu's 16-year-old L. Dhanush bagged a gold medal in the youth men's 49 kg section of the National (junior, youth & senior) weightlifting championships at the Ponjesly College of Engineering here on Thursday.

Dhanush, who did a best of 81 kg in snatch, went on to create a National record in clean & jerk (110 kg) for a total of 191 kg that pushed State-mate V. Kishore (188) to the second position. Dhanush rewrote the record set by Bhaktram Desti (108).

Earlier, in the first event of the day, Odisha's Jyoshna Sabar finished first in the youth women's 40Kg with a 53 in snatch and 71 in clean & jerk for a total of 124 ahead of Maharashtra's Vinatai Aher (57, 66, 123).

Later in the day, RSPB's Komal Kohar and Asmita Dhone of Maharashtra created a National record in their respective categories.

Komal rewrote the record in junior and women's 45 kg snatch with a lift of 74 kg, while Asmita scripted a new mark in youth women's 45 kg clean & jerk with a lift of 82 kg.

The results:
Youth: Men: 49 kg: 1. L. Dhanush (TN) (snatch 81, clean & jerk 110, total 191); 2. V. Kishore (TN) (84, 104, 188); 3. Gautam Kumar (Bih) (75, 102, 177).
Women: 40 kg: 1. Jyoshna Sabar (Odi) (53, 71, 124); 2. Vinatai Aher (Mah) (57, 66, 123) 3. Priteeesmita Bhoi (Odi) 50, 63, 113).

INBRIEF

Liverpool confirms signing Gakpo from PSV Eindhoven

Liverpool confirmed the signing of Cody Gakpo, subject to a work permit, on Wednesday with the Dutch international forward joining from PSV Eindhoven. The 23-year-old, who scored three goals at the World Cup for the Netherlands, had previously been linked with a move to Manchester United. According to reports, Liverpool will pay an initial fee of £37 million with Gakpo signing a contract until 2028.

Chelsea's Reece James to miss up to a month due to injury

Reece James will be sidelined for up to a month after the England defender sustained a recurrence of his knee injury in Chelsea's 2-0 Premier League victory over Bournemouth on Tuesday. James had missed the World Cup because of his long-term injury. "Scan results have regrettably confirmed a setback for the 23-year-old, with Reece now set to be ruled out for up to a month," Chelsea said in a statement on Wednesday.

School team all out for zero in Nagercoil tournament

The St. Thomas Marthoma MHSS (Kulasekaram) cricket team achieved the dubious distinction of being dismissed for no score on Thursday. Chasing a target of 274 against Good Shepherd MHSS (Marthandam) in the KKDCA under-17 inter-school cricket tournament in Nagercoil, St. Thomas was skittled out for zero in 4.2 overs with P. Prijesh Samuel returning an remarkable spell of five for 0.

Goa puts up a brave effort, but still way behind Karnataka

Disciplined knocks from Prabhudessai, Lad and captain Misal give Goa hope, but the home team needs 282 more to make the visitors bat again

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
PANAJI

Goa provided brave resistance to prevent Karnataka's march on the third day of their Ranji Trophy encounter here on Thursday.

Disciplined knocks from Suyash Prabhudessai (87, 165b, 12x4), Siddhesh Lad (63, 84b, 10x4, 1x6) and captain Darshan Misal (66 batting, 134b, 9x4, 1x6) took Goa to 321 for eight. The home team, however, is still 282 runs behind Karnataka's mammoth first-innings total of 603 for seven declared.

Left-arm spinner Shubhang Hegde made his mark by taking the wickets of overnight batters Sumiran Amonkar and Prabhudessai. While Amonkar was taken by wicketkeeper B.R. Sharath, Prabhudessai was stuck on the crease and trapped leg-before.

Karnataka then had to contend with Lad, who looked supremely confident. He eased back to make room and cut anything short, and presented the full face to half-volleys. Goa made rapid strides when Lad and Misal got together for a 65-run sixth-wicket stand.

A brilliant catch by Nikin Jose shifted the momentum Karnataka's way.

Going, going... Mohit Redkar is about to be caught by Samarth in the slips off Gowtham. ASHWIN ACHAL

Jose moved swiftly to his right to hold on to a chance offered by Lad, who edged an outswinger from pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar.

Two quick dismissals followed. Arjun Tendulkar was caught by Sharath down the leg for a golden duck, and Mohit Redkar was snapped up by off-spinner K. Gowtham.

Tailender Lakshay Garg (20 n.o., 46b, 2x4, 1x6) provided Misal reliable company in the evening session. The pair stuck around for 16.1 overs to finish proceedings on a high. Lakshay even had some fun, charging down the track and smashing Gowtham for a six over mid-wicket.

As end of play approached, Misal and Garg were pulled up by the umpires for wasting time. Garg was not given permission to exchange his helmet for a cap, while Garg was stopped from having a long chat with Misal in the middle of the over.

Despite Karnataka's best effort, Goa's first innings did not come to a close. If the home side shows this same fighting spirit on the last day, it could earn a creditable draw.

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: 603/7 decl.
Goa — 1st innings: Sumiran Amonkar c Sharath b Hegde 30, Amogh Desai b More 5, Suyash Prabhudessai lbw Hegde 87, Snehal Kauthankar c Pandey b Gowtham 21, Siddhesh Lad c Jose b Vyshak 63, Eknath Kerkar lbw b Gowtham 5, Darshan Misal (batting) 66, Arjun Tendulkar c Sharath b Vyshak 0, Mohit Redkar c Samarth b Gowtham 6, Lakshay Garg (batting) 20; Extras (b-4, lb-11, w-2, nb-1): 18; Total (for eight wkts. in 109 overs): 321.
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-64, 3-128, 4-171, 5-196, 6-261, 7-263, 8-270.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 16.5-6-55-0, More 18.1-10-17-1, Gowtham 35-9-109-3, Vyshak 14-3-46-2, Hegde 25-4-79-2.

RANJI SCORES (ROUND THREE, DAY THREE)

Elite: Group A: At Vadodara: Uttar Pradesh 258 & 177 in 54 overs (Dhruv Jurel 50, Ninad Rathva 5/56) vs. Baroda 249 in 88.1 overs (Ninad Rathva 102) & 72/4 in 21 overs (Shashwat Rawat 41 batting).
At Cuttack: Haryana 338 & 119/1 in 37 overs (Ankit Kumar 59 batting) vs. Odisha 414 in 128.5 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 63, Kartik Biswal 101, Suryakant Pradhan 60).
At Sovima: Nagaland 166 & 123 in 45.3 overs (Karan Lal 5/47) lost to Bengal 450/4 decl. in 96 overs (Manoj Tiwary 51 n.o., Shahbaz Ahmed 75 n.o.); **Points: Bengal 7 (16), Nagaland 0 (0)**.
At Dehradun: Himachal Pradesh 49 & 327/4 in 90 overs (Akash Vasisht 92 batting, Rishi Dhawan 57 batting) vs. Uttarakhand 336.
Group B: At Delhi: Delhi 303 & 28/1 in 8 overs vs. Tamil Nadu 427/8 decl. in 116 overs (Vijay Shankar 52, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 124).
At Hyderabad: Assam 205 & 252 in 75.2 overs (Ravi Teja 5/50) vs. Hyderabad 208 & 228/9 in 61 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 123 batting, Bhavesh Seth 41).
At Vizianagaram: Maharashtra 200 & 250 in 81.1 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 63, Azim Kazi 46, Ashay Palkar 40) vs. Andhra 211 & 100/4 in 30 overs.
At Mumbai: Saurashtra 289 & 220 in 52.4 overs (Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 90, Shams Mulani 6/65) vs. Mumbai 230 & 218/8 in 67 overs (Prithvi Shaw 68, Parth Bhut 4/56).
Group C: At Porvorim: Karnataka 603/7 decl. vs. Goa 321/8 in 109 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 87, Siddhesh Lad 63, Darshan Misal 66 batting).
At Jamshedpur: Services 367 & 22/1 in 5 overs vs. Jharkhand 551/8 decl. in 142 overs (Kumar Suraj 83, Saurabh Tiwary 165, Anukul Roy 57, Shahbaz Nadeem 60 n.o.).
At Thumba: Chhattisgarh 149 & 287 in 89.4 overs (Harpreet Singh 152, Jalaj Saxena 6/75) vs. Kerala 311.
Group D: At Agartala: Punjab 203 vs. Tripura 184/4 in 68 overs (Sridam Paul 55, Sudip Chatterjee 59 batting).
At Ahmedabad: Chandigarh 304 & 46/2 in 15 overs vs. Gujarat

Priyank Panchal (Gujarat, 257 n.o.).

596/4 decl. in 134 overs (Priyank Panchal 257 n.o., Het Patel 59, Manan Hingrajia 151 n.o.).
At Nagpur: Jammu & Kashmir 191 & 221 in 59.4 overs (Shubham Khajuria 109, Akshay Wakhare 4/50) bt Vidarbha 272 & 101 in 34 overs (Atharva Taide 42, Abid Mushtaq 8/18); **Points: J&K 6 (6), Vidarbha 0 (12).**
At Indore: Railways 274 & 195 in 72 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 53, Saransh Jain 4/82, Kumar Kartikeya 5/54) vs. Madhya Pradesh (MP) 255 in 84.5 overs (Sagar Jadhav 5/34) & 36/0 in 13 overs.
Plate: At Rangpo: Mizoram 263 & 156 in 58 overs (Taruwar Kohli 50, Palzor Tamang 5/25) vs. Sikkim 176 & 17/2 in 10 overs.
At Shillong: Bihar 264 & 99 in 36.2 overs (Abhishek Kumar 4/26, Akash Choudhary 4/41) lost to Meghalaya 167 & 200/6 in 45 overs (Swarajeet Das 81); **Points: Meghalaya 6 (19), Bihar 0 (10).**
At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 233 & 251 in 95.5 overs (Anup Ahlawat 52, L. Kishan Singha 6/63) vs. Manipur 287 & 10/0 in 1 over.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 9.30, 11.45 p.m.& 2 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Australian Open prize money hits record high

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Pay rises are in store for players at January's Australian Open with organisers announcing on Thursday a 3.4% boost in the total purse to a record A$76.5 million (US$51.6 million).

The winners of the men's and women's titles at the first Grand Slam of the year will both take home A$2.975 million with players beaten in earlier rounds faring better than ever.

Anyone crashing out in round one will receive A$106,250, up 3.2%, while second-round players get a similar increase to A$158,850.

Good as gold: If Osaka were to regain her title, she would take home a bigger purse. AFP

Tournament director Craig Tiley said the total prize pool for the Australian summer of tennis, which includes Grand Slam warm-up events like the United Cup, would exceed A$100 million for the first time. "These substantial rewards help players invest in their own careers and in many cases, set themselves up for success throughout the year."

The Open starts on January 16.

Fritz and Keys give United States strong start against the Czech Republic

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

American World No. 9 Taylor Fritz and 11th-ranked Madison Keys cruised through their opening ties against the Czech Republic at the inaugural United Cup on Thursday.

The mixed team tournament features 18 countries playing in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, with each tie consisting of two men's and two women's singles rubbers along with a mixed doubles match.

Fritz got his country off to a flying start with a 6-3, 6-4 win over World No. 74 Jiri Lehecka at Sydney's Ken Rosewall Arena before Keys saw off Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-3.

Well begun is... Fritz gave USA the perfect start against the Czech Republic, beating Lehecka. AP

Later, Cameron Norrie beat Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-3 and Katie Swan beat Zoe Hives 6-4, 6-3 to give Great Britain a 2-0 lead over Australia.

In Perth, Stefanos Tsitsipas fired Greece to a 2-0 lead over Bulgaria with a comeback win against Grigor Dimitrov. The World No. 4 recovered smoothly after losing the opening set to emerge with a 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(4) victory.

Teammate Despina Papamichail, ranked 158th, gave her country the opening point as she defeated a cramping Isabella Shinikova, also finishing with a fightback to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

The results:

In Sydney: USA leads Czech Republic 2-0 [Taylor Fritz bt Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 6-4; Madison Keys bt Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-3].

Great Britain leads Australia 2-0 [Cameron Norrie bt Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-3; Katie Swan bt Zoe Hives 6-4, 6-3].

In Brisbane: Italy vs Brazil 1-1 [Martina Trevisan lost to Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-2, 6-0; Lorenzo Musetti bt Felipe Meligeni Alves 6-3, 6-4].

Switzerland leads Kazakhstan 2-0 [Belinda Bencic bt Yulia Y. Putintseva 7-6(0), 6-3; Marc-Andrea M. Husler 4-6, 6-3, 6-3].

In Perth: Greece leads Bulgaria 2-0 [Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Grigor Dimitrov 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(4); Despina Papamichail bt Isabella Shinikova 3-6, 6-4, 6-1].

France leads Argentina 2-0 [Alice Cornet bt Maria Carle 6-2, 6-1; Arthur Rinderknech bt Francisco Cerundolo 6-4, 6-2].

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Sukruth and Rajarshi star in Bangalore City's big win

BENGALURU: J. Sukruth's (4/19 & 98 n.o.) and Rajarshi Mitra (5/24) helped Bangalore City XI defeat Vice President's XI by an innings and 14 runs in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament.

The scores: President's XI 173 in 57 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 66, M. Assad 36, Shubh C. Mungurwadi 4/29, Prithvi Karajgi 4/36) & 204/7 in 65 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 33, R. Parth 49, R. Rathin Sanjay 35 n.o., Milan Dhami 30, Vishal Dongare 4/35) drew with Dharwad 134 in 53.1 overs (Joy James Sullad 37, A. Rishik 3/4).

Tumkur 247 in 65.4 overs (B. Romith 103, A.A. Rohith 51, Shreyash S. Depavat 29, K. Preetham Raj 3/34) & 20 for no loss in 2.1 overs bt Shimoga 109 in 51.3 overs (Abhishek 3/5, M.G. Kishor 3/22) & 155 in 70.4 overs (M.C. Mourya 33, M.G. Kishor 3/23).

Vice President's XI 89 in 32 overs (Abhinav Jha 30, S.P. Banesh 3/20, J. Sukruth 4/19) & 96 in 35.4 overs (Yogesh S. Chavan 34, Rajarshi Mitra 5/24) lost to Bangalore City XI 199 in 59 overs (J. Sukruth 98 n.o., Gaurav Venkatesh 7/46).

Combined City XI 355/9 in 90 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 160, Dhruv Modhe 48, Manish Benjamin John 45 n.o., Suvik Gill 28) drew with Mangalore 211/9 in 86.2 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 28, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 25, C. Vihaan 55 n.o., Nishaan Shetty 37, Dheeganth S. Mavinkere 3/60).

Raichur 128 in 59.2 overs (Kashif Ahmed Ali 43, G.K. Saivarun 3/25) & 68 in 28.5 overs (Ahaan Naman Mehta 5/10) lost to Bangalore 181 in 69 overs (Shaurya Murali Ramanath 28, M. Shivu 44, Aaryansinh Chavda 45, Syaamantak Anirudh 36, Mohammed Shamsheer 4/37) & 16 for no loss in 5.3 overs.

Secretary's XI 215/7 in 90 overs (Aditya Jha 54, D. Chiranth 37, Arhaan Jai Singh 26, H.N. Karthik 39 n.o.) & 131/6 in 36.4 overs (Arya J. Gowda 41, D. Chiranth 29 n.o., C.R. Dhanush Mannar 3/33) drew with Mysore 179 in 63.2 overs (Praneeth Shetty 107, Arya J. Gowda 4/32).

Vandita, Veda shine in Karnataka's victory

Vandita K. Rao (4/4) and V. Veda Varshini (3/0) starred for Karnataka as it beat Assam by six wickets in the BCCI under-15 women's one-day trophy in Rajkot.

The scores: Assam 25 in 17.2 overs (V. Veda Varshini 3/0, Vandita K. Rao 4/4) lost to Karnataka 28/4 in 11 overs.

Karnataka routs Tripura

Karnataka thrashed Tripura 10-0 in a group stage match of the Santosh TrophyNational football championship in Delhi.

The result: Karnataka 10 (M. Shelton Paul 2, 27, Robin Yadav 16, Prashanth Kalinga 30, M. Sunil Kumar 40, Abhishek Shankar Powar 54, Appu 78, P. Ankith 81, K. Raja Ganapathy 86, P. Kamalesh 90+6) bt Tripura 0.

Monish is Bharath CC's hero

S. Monish emerged the hero (25 & 6/47) as Bharath CC beat Silky Town CC, Channapatna by 48 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fourth division league.

The scores: Indiranagar Cricketers 172 in 46 overs (Prashanth Giridhara 86, M.R. Madhu 4/26, C. Arvind 3/40, Dhyan K. Kaushik 3/27) lost to Sirupark SC 176/2 in 25.5 overs (C. Arvind 60, Anish John 100 n.o.).

Whirlwind Cricketers 186 in 42 overs (Rahul Ghosh 27, Shreyank Sagar 62, Sayan Arjun 27, Sunil Singh 5/32, Akash G. Pattar 4/37) bt South End SC 152 in 25.3 overs (Kayan Abbas 32, Akash G. Pattar 28, G. Pradeep 27, Sayan Arjun 5/32).

Bharath CC 314/6 in 50 overs (C.S. Yathiraj 66, Ashwin Kumar 100, Sumedh S. Rao 33, Gaurov Shanbhag 36, S. Monish 25) bt Silky Town CC, Channapatna 266 in 47.3 overs (K.S. Chandrashekar Murthy 30, Sha Mudassir Uddin 35, K.S. Somashekara Murthy 59, C. Kushal 96, S. Monish 6/47).

Jonathan scores winner

Jonathan Aditya Piers's solitary strike was enough as Bangalore City FC edged Royals FC 1-0 in the BDFA B-division football league here on Thursday.

The results: Md. Sporting FC 1 (M.P. Thotreimung 14) drew with Bangalore Warriors FC 1 (Md. Rayan 25); Bangalore City FC 1 (Jonathan Aditya Piers 61) bt Royals FC 0.

Govind nets five in BCYA-A thumping win

Govind Nag scored five times as BCYA-A defeated Ideal Sports Academy-A 7-2 in the KSHA B-division hockey league here on Thursday.

The results: Bellary HC 3 (Sumanth 11, Jaswanth 44, Bharath 51) bt Naveen HC-A 1 (Ajeesh Reji 28); BCYA-A 7 (Govind Nag 1, 23, 32, 36, 42, Tejas Chavan 38, S. Pawan 46) bt Ideal Sports Academy-A 2 (Chandru 8, Sunil 33).

India-Pakistan Test at MCG mooted after huge success of WC clash

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) has expressed interest in hosting a Test between India and Pakistan after successfully organising the marquee T20 World Cup clash between the two sides earlier this year.

MCC, which manages the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the Victoria government recently inquired with Cricket Australia (CA) about the possibility of hosting the high-profile Test.

MCC chief executive Stuart Fox has revealed his intentions to host the Test following the tremendous success of the T20 World Cup clash in October, which was attended by over 90,000 spectators.

"Absolutely. Three (Tests) in a row would be lovely at the MCG. You'd fill it every time. We have asked," Fox was quoted as saying by SEN radio.

He said it is now up to CA to pursue the matter with the ICC.

"Hopefully, Cricket Australia keep taking it up with the ICC and keep pushing for it. When you do see some of the stadiums around the world unoccupied, I think it would be much better to have a full house and that atmosphere and celebrating the game with full houses," he said.

The last time India and Pakistan played a bilateral Test match against each other was way back in 2007.

Since then, both sides have only faced each other in either ICC or Asian Cricket Council tournaments.

Pakistan is scheduled to feature in the Boxing Day Test against Australia at the MCG in 2023 as part of a three-match series in the next World Test Championship cycle, and Fox hopes for a full house in that match similar to the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash.

"I've never seen anything like it at the MCG, that India-Pakistan game was something else," Fox said.

"The atmosphere, I've never felt it like that. The noise after every ball was just phenomenal and the families and children and everyone enjoying it.

"I think if we can be more inclusive and make sure that we cater for all cultures, we've got to tap into that Pakistan community next year. We want them here and that would be fantastic to have a full house day one," he added.